

Shueisha



# Phoenix

CIVIL WAR

Full Text

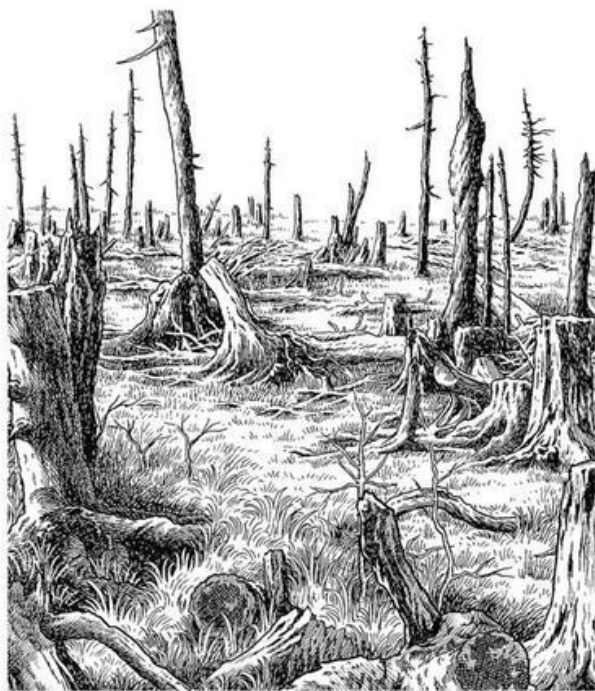
OSAMU TEZUKA

Vol. 8

# phoenix

## CIVIL WAR

PART TWO/Robe of Feathers



BY OSAMU TEZUKA

Phoenix: Civil War: Part 2 and Robe of Feathers  
Vol. 8  
VIZ Signature Edition

STORY AND ART BY  
OSAMU TEZUKA

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Touch-up Art & Lettering/Primary Graphix  
Design/Izumi Evers  
Editor/Ian Robertson

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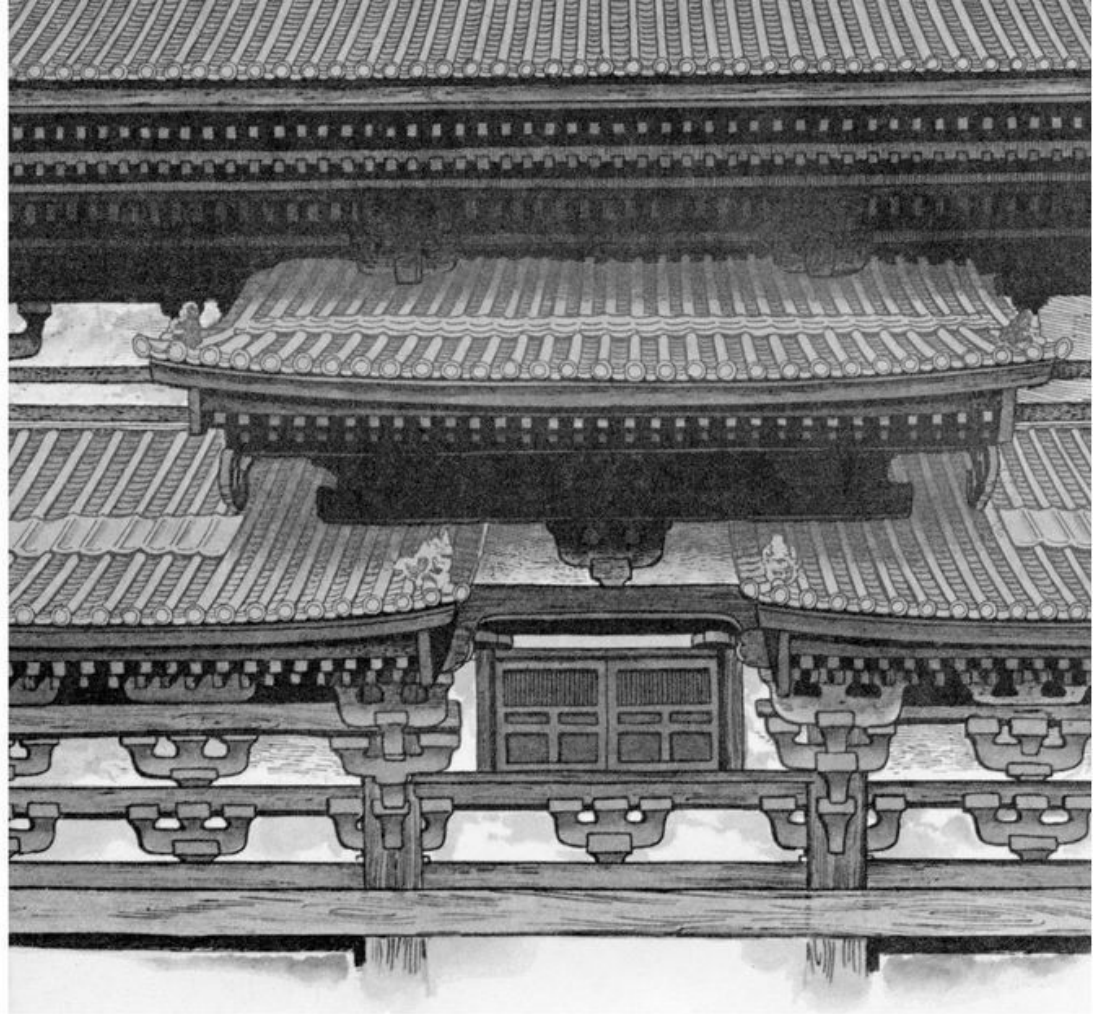
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Published by VIZ Media, LLC  
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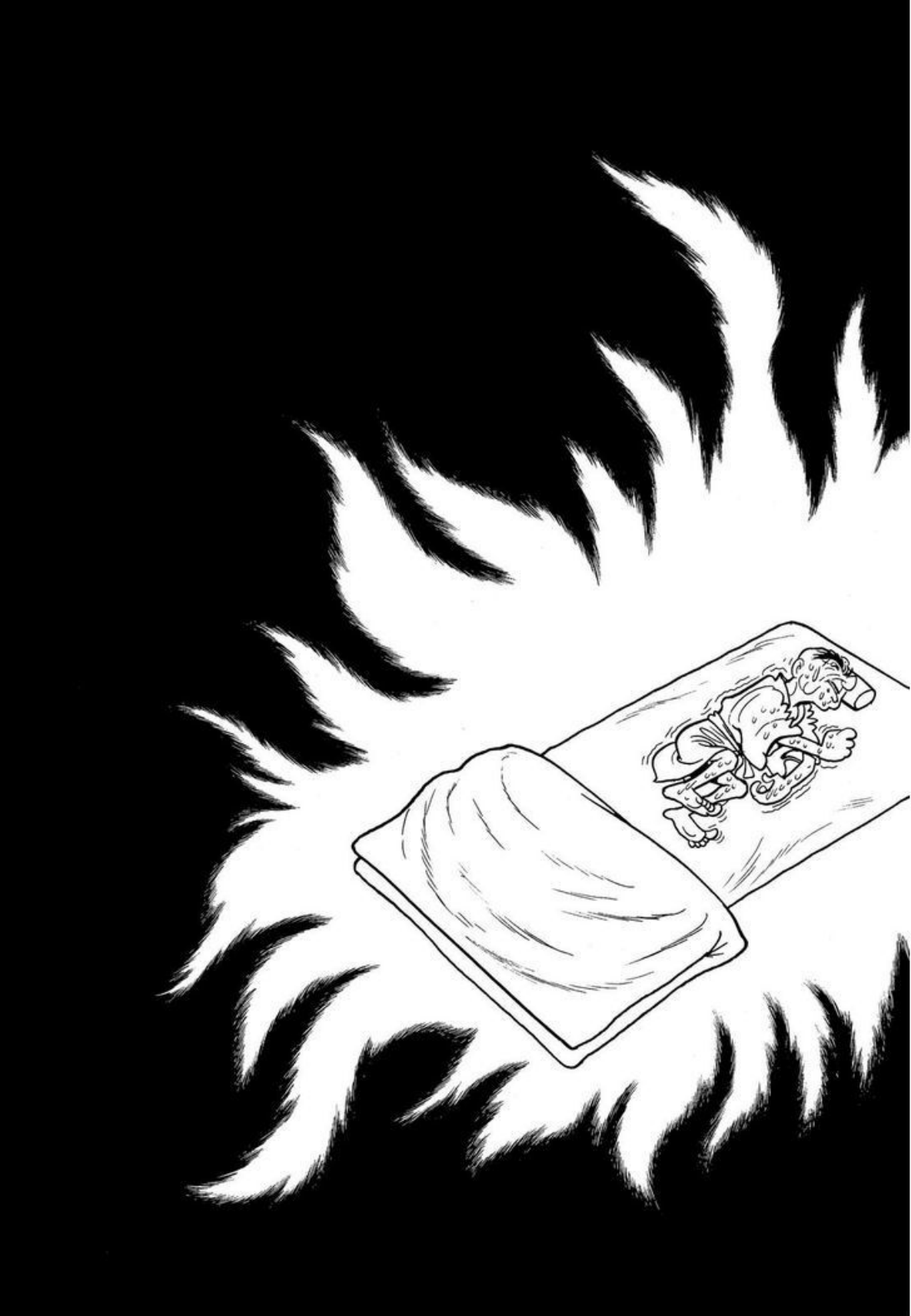


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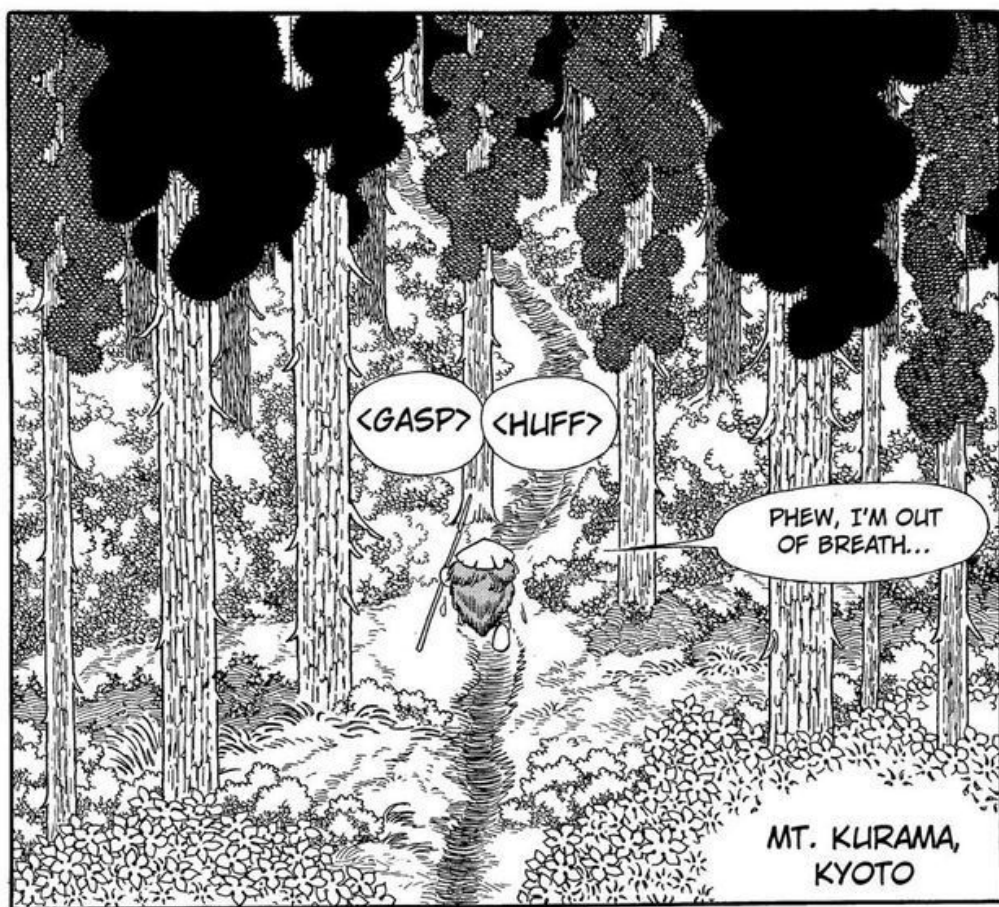




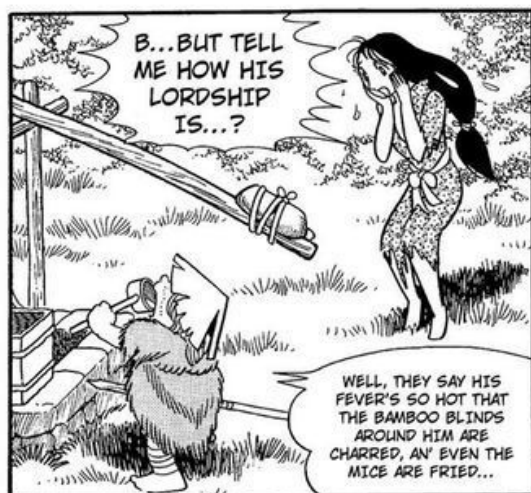
A scroll with a decorative border is positioned in the upper right corner. The scroll contains text about a historical event. To the left of the scroll, there is a large, stylized illustration of a character's hair, rendered in white and black, flowing downwards.

FEBRUARY, OF THE LEAP YEAR 1181

KIYOMORI FELL ILL WITH A HIGH  
FEVER. HE WAS PROBABLY SUFFERING  
FROM PNEUMONIA, WHICH HAD  
DEVELOPED FROM A BAD COLD. BUT  
THEN, SUDDENLY, HIS CONDITION  
WORSENERD EVEN FURTHER....



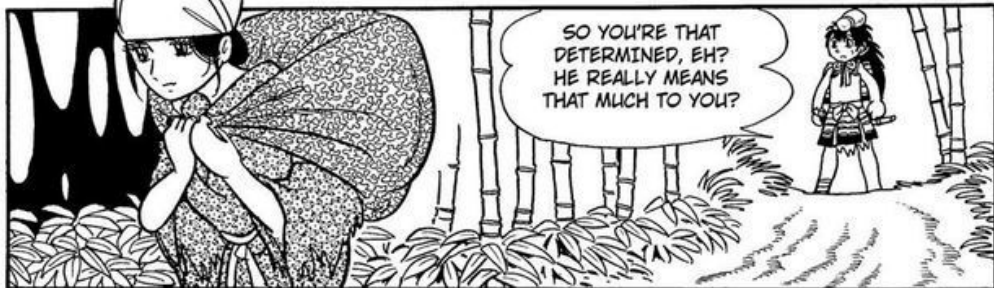
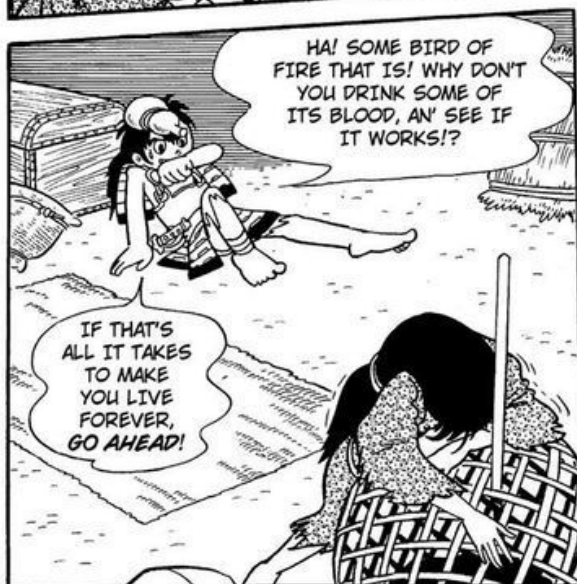
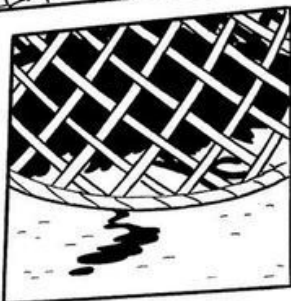
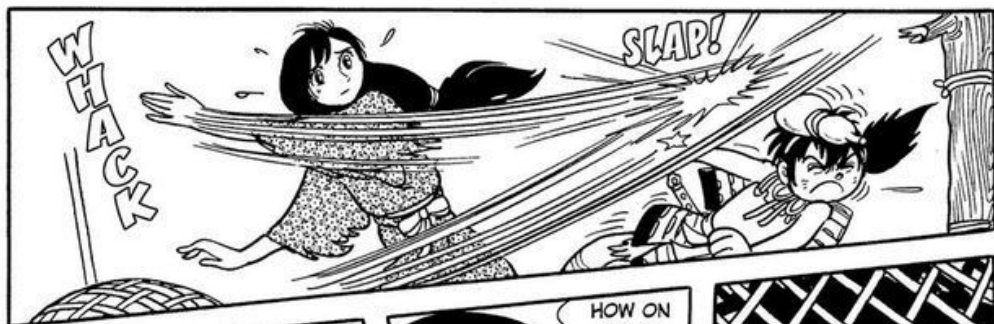




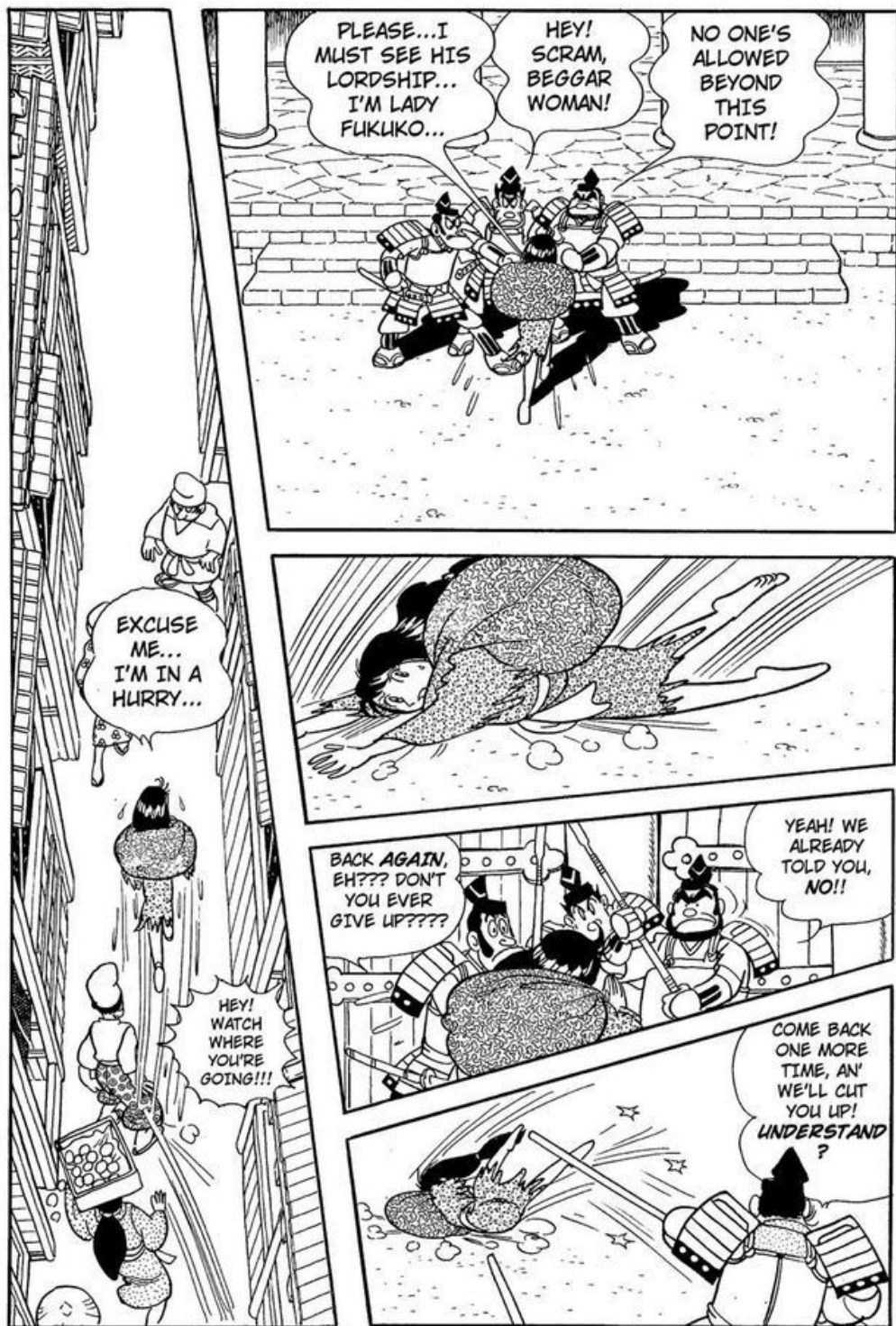


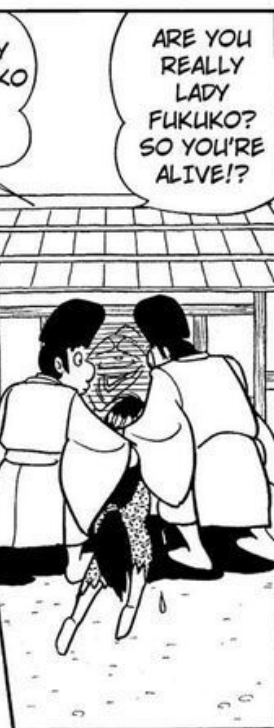
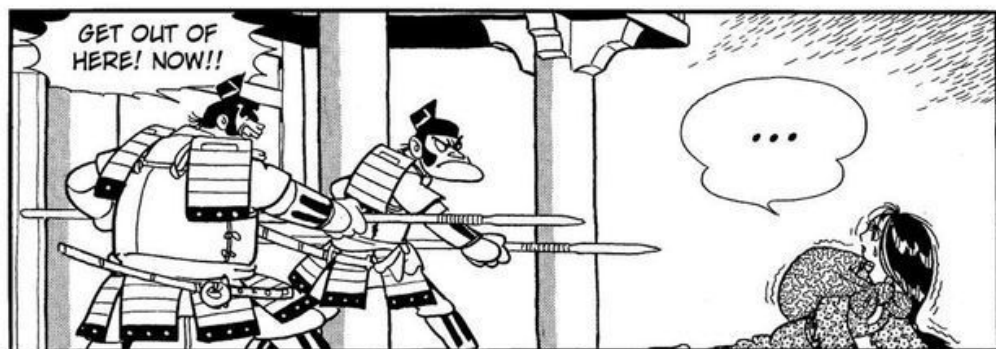


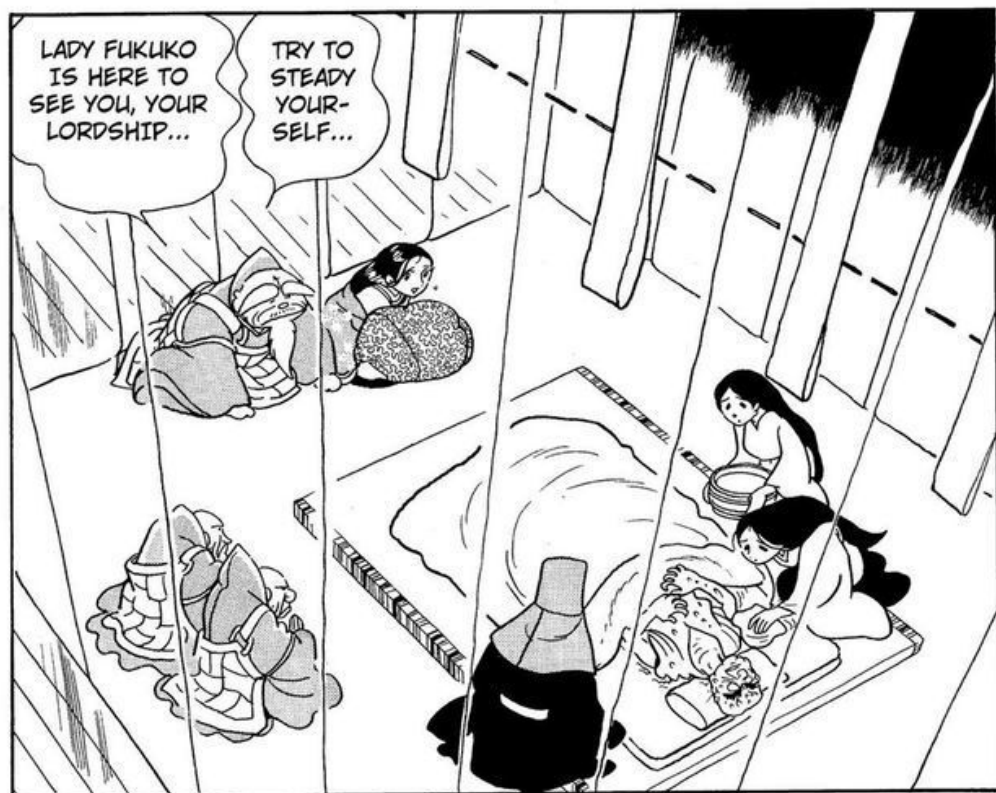








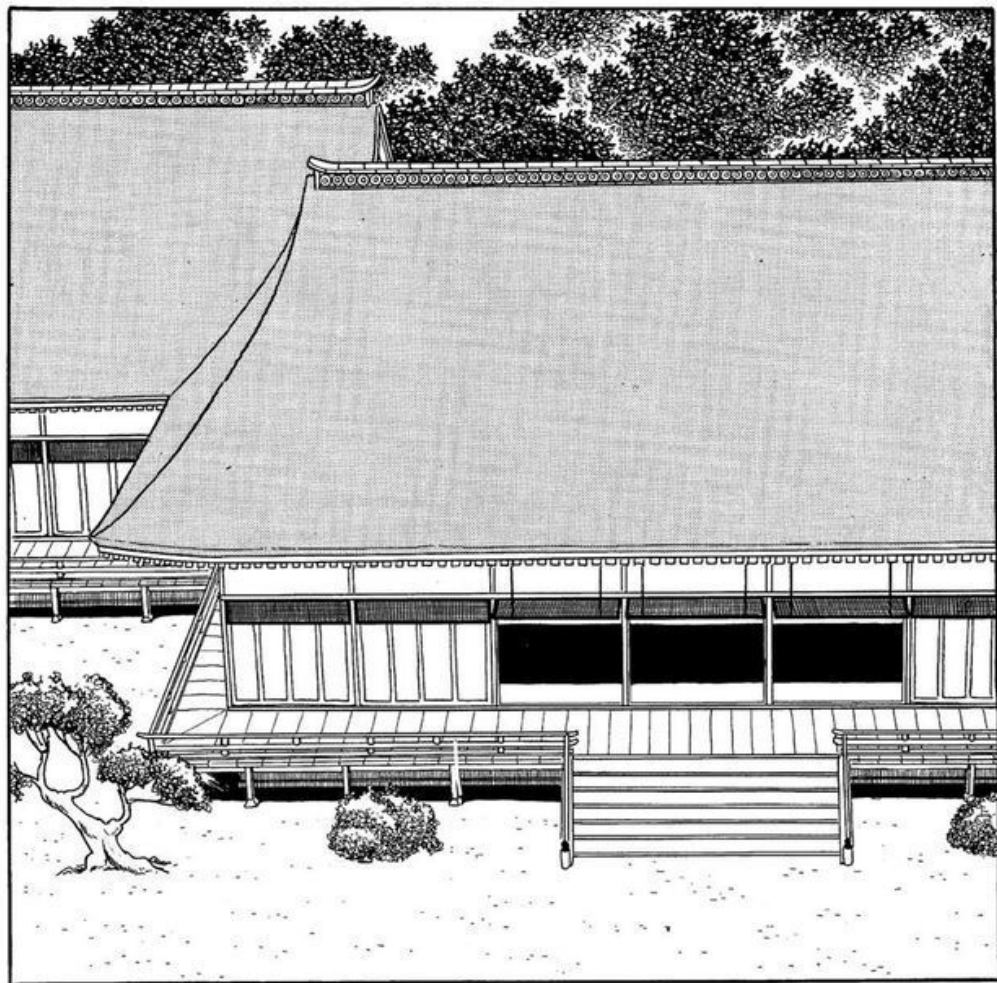


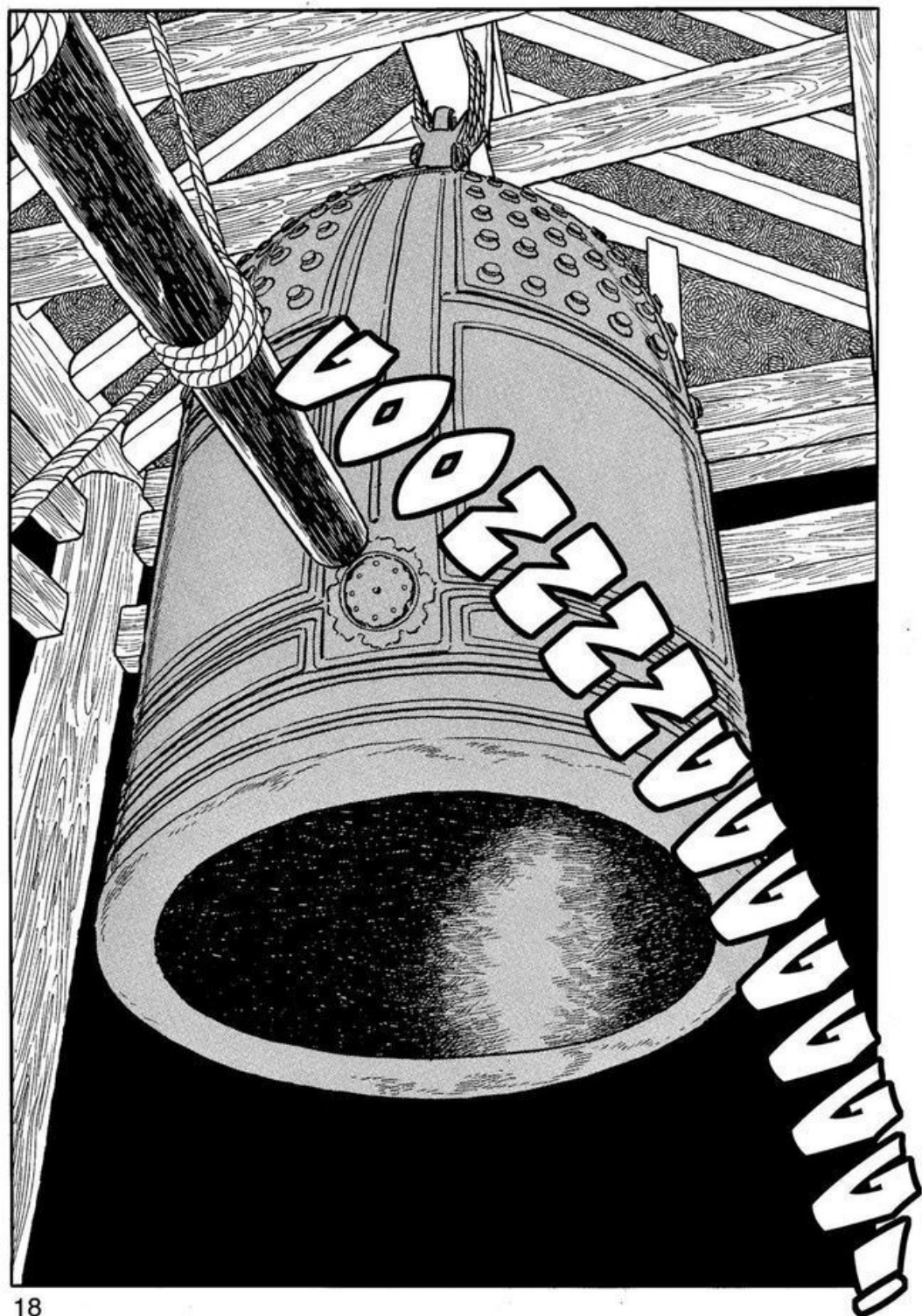


















IT'S  
FINALLY  
HAPPENED  
!

KIYO-  
MORI'S  
DEAD!

KIYO-  
MORI'S  
*REALLY*  
DEAD...

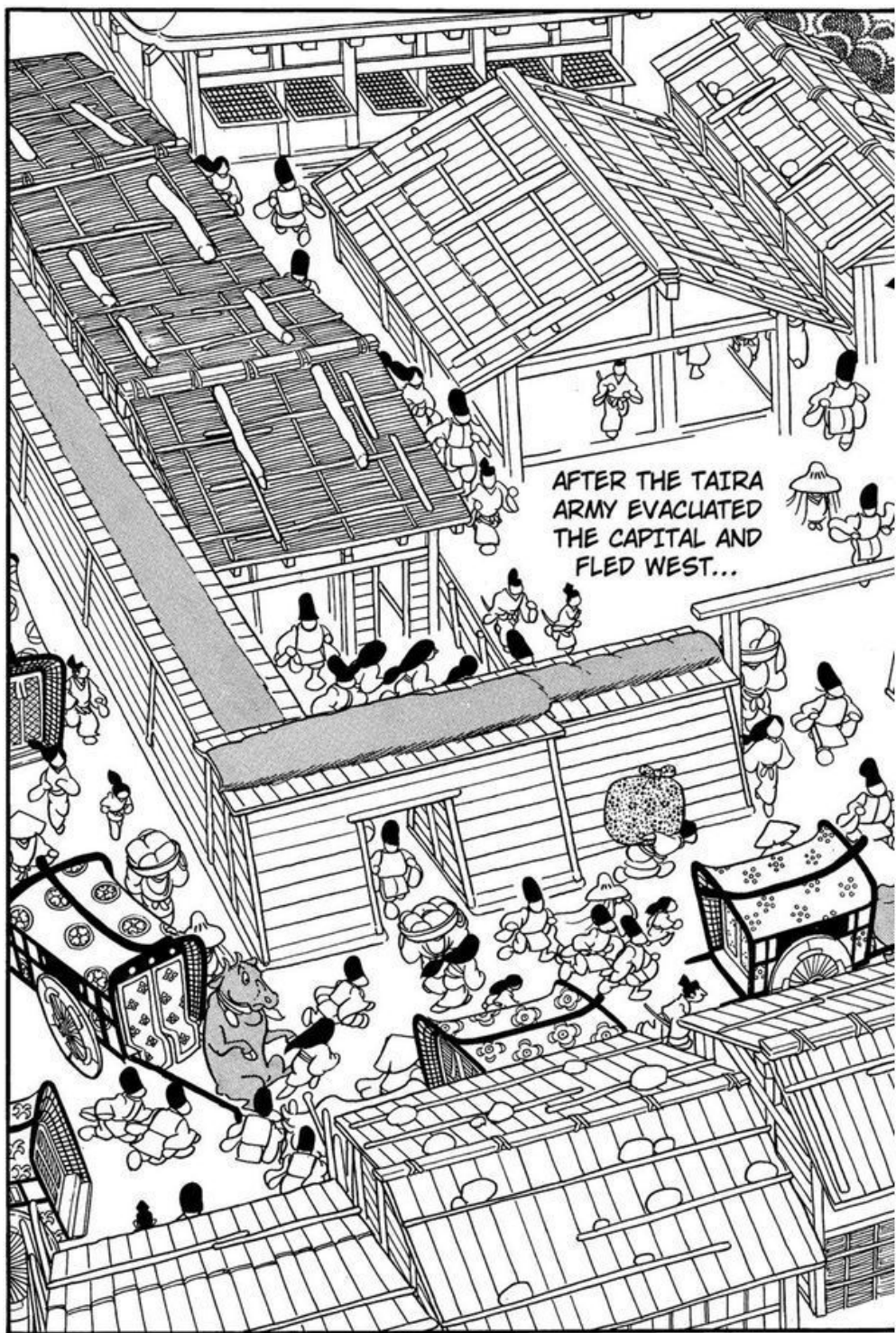
WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN  
NOW!?

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER KIYOMORI'S DEATH, KISO YOSHINAKA, OF THE NORTHERN REGION, LED AN UPRISING AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ALMOST AS IF HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THE MOMENT ALL ALONG.

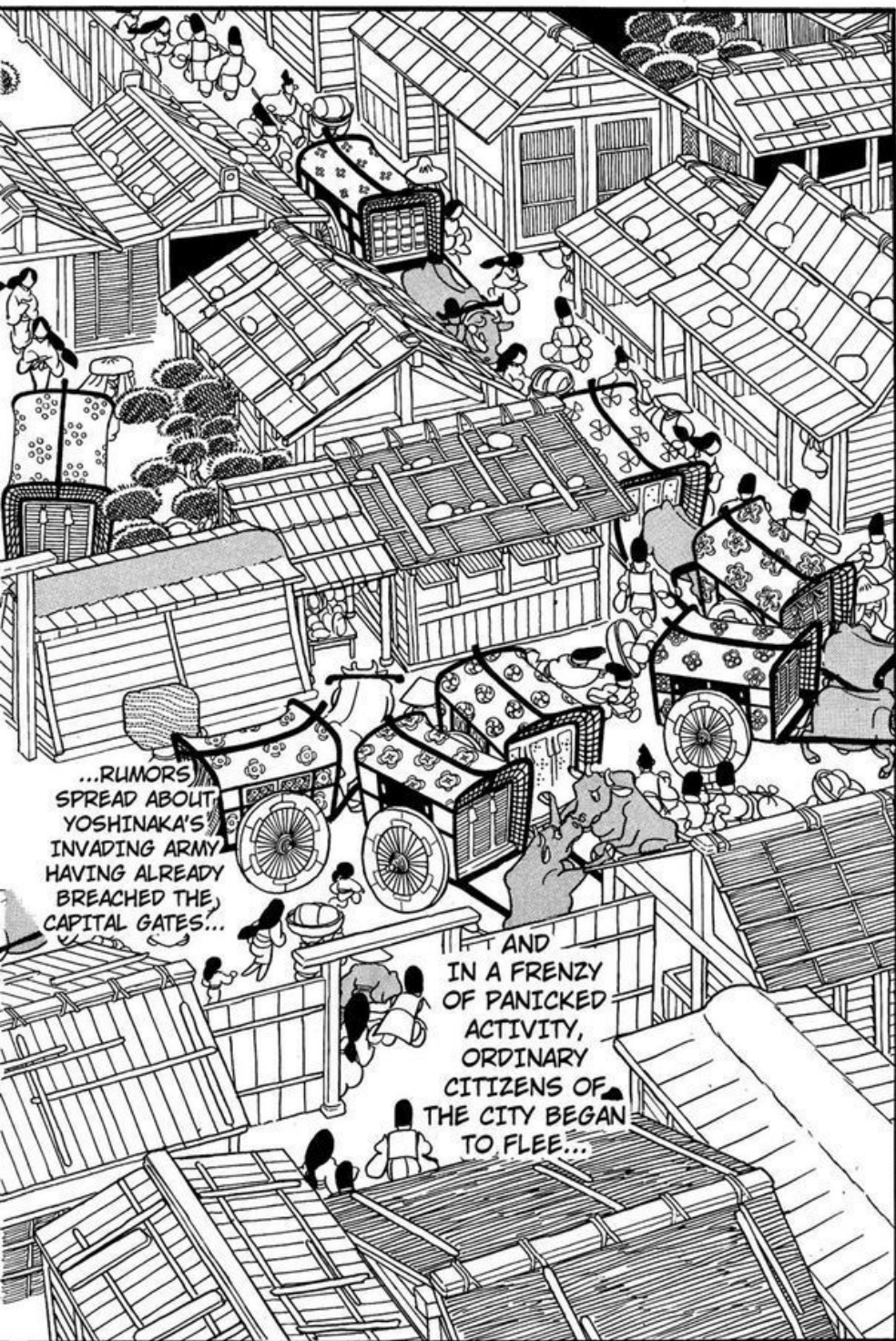
IN AN EFFORT TO BLUNT YOSHINAKA'S CHALLENGE, THE TAIRA CLAN HASTILY RAISED A HUGE ARMY, BUT THEIR DISORGANIZATION SOON LED TO A MAJOR DEFEAT AT KURIKARA PASS, AND THEY WERE FORCED TO RETREAT BACK TO THE CAPITAL IN DISARRAY.

CAPITALIZING ON THE MOMENTUM OF HIS VICTORY, YOSHINAKA LED HIS ARMY TO THE CAPITAL. THE TAIRA RESPONDED BY SETTING FIRE TO THEIR OWN HOMES. THEN, AFTER TAKING THE YOUNG EMPEROR ANTOKU WITH THEM, THE TAIRA FLED WESTWARD TO THE ISLAND OF SHIKOKU.





AFTER THE TAIRA  
ARMY EVACUATED  
THE CAPITAL AND  
FLED WEST...

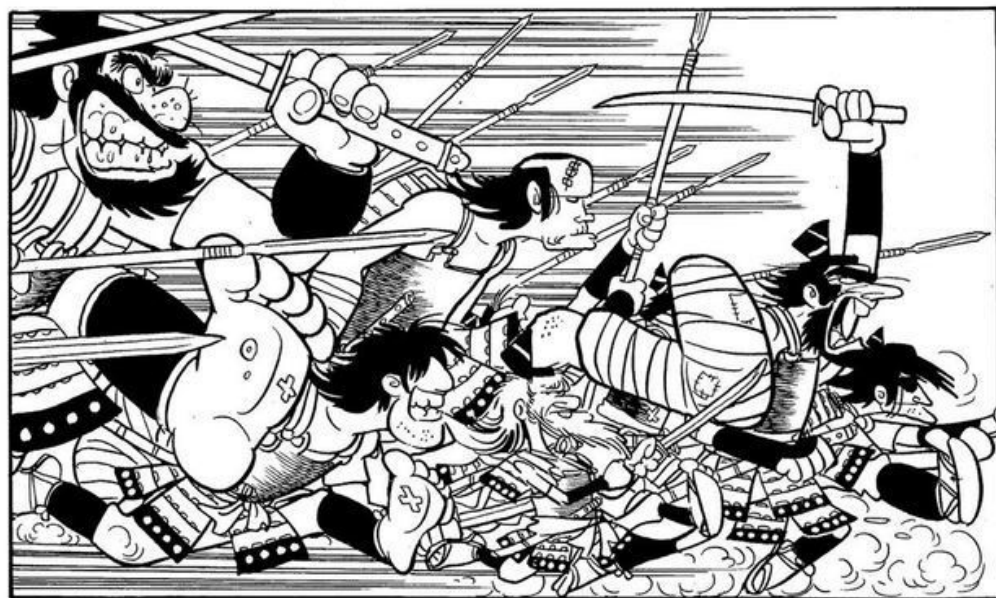


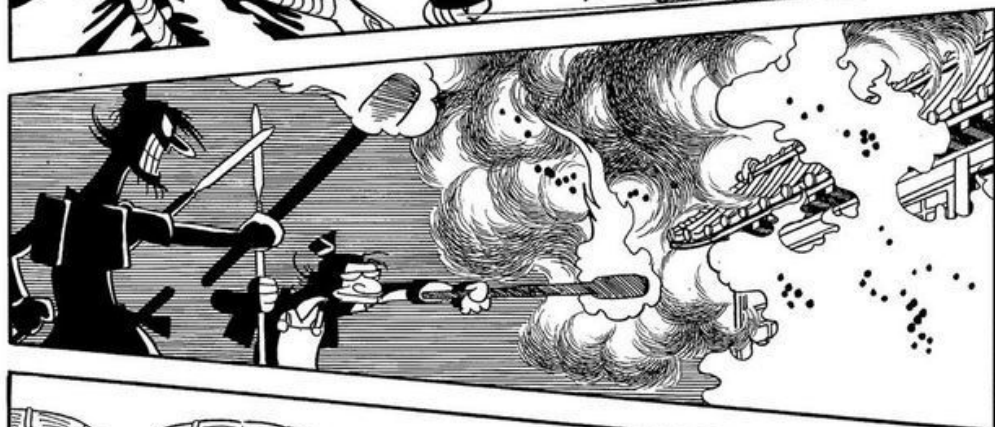
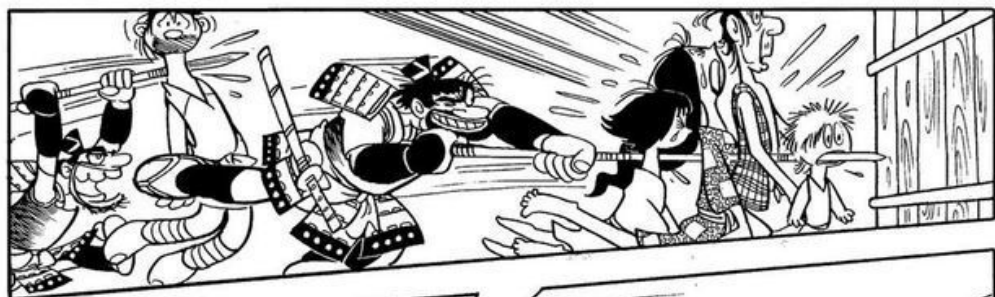
...RUMORS  
SPREAD ABOUT  
YOSHINAKA'S  
INVADING ARMY  
HAVING ALREADY  
BREACHED THE  
CAPITAL GATES...

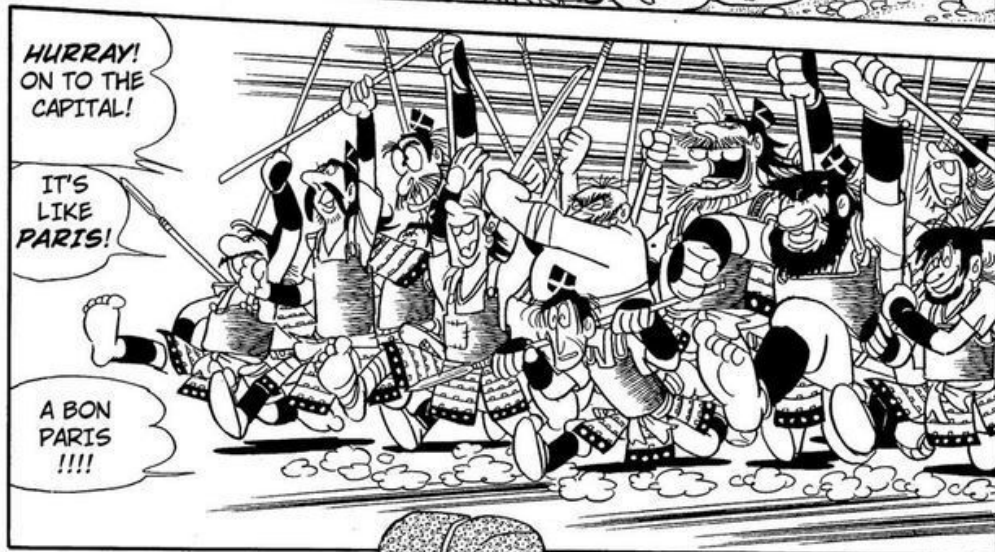
AND  
IN A FRENZY  
OF PANICKED  
ACTIVITY,  
ORDINARY  
CITIZENS OF  
THE CITY BEGAN  
TO FLEE...



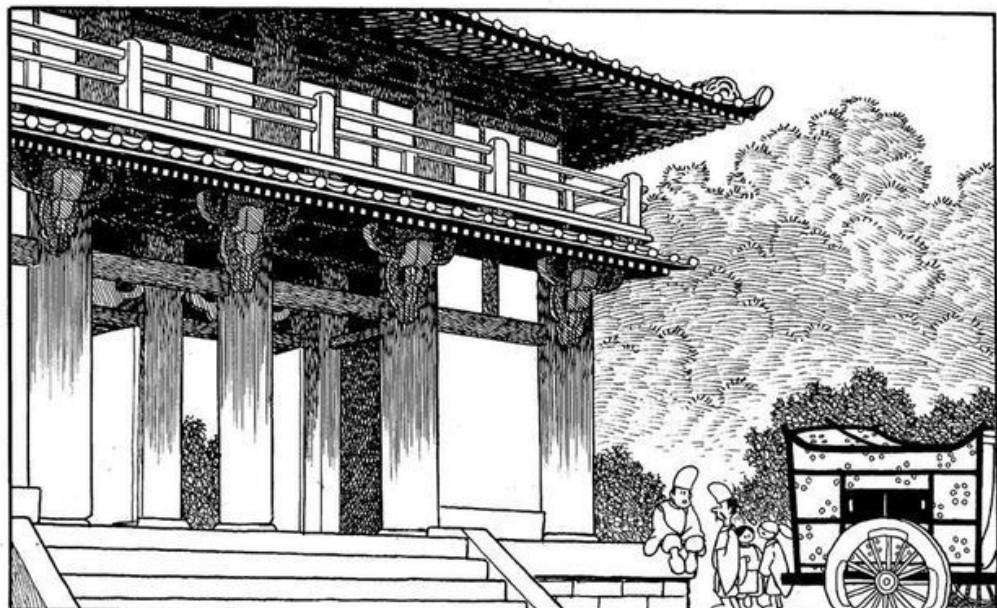


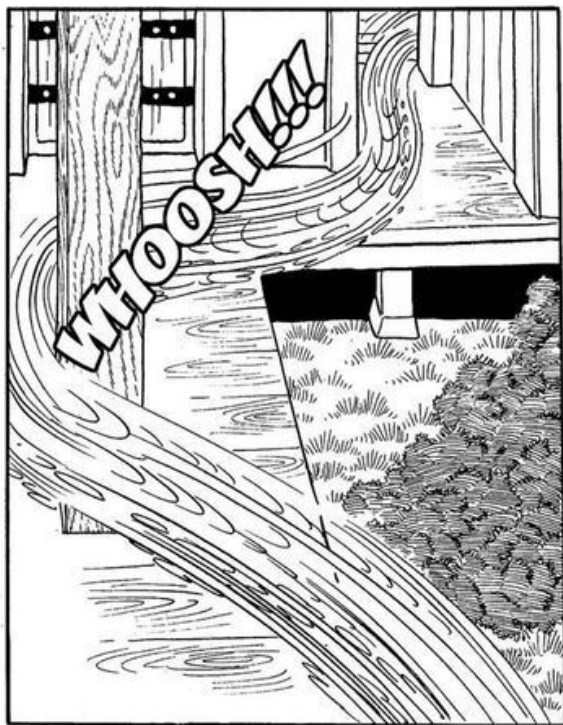






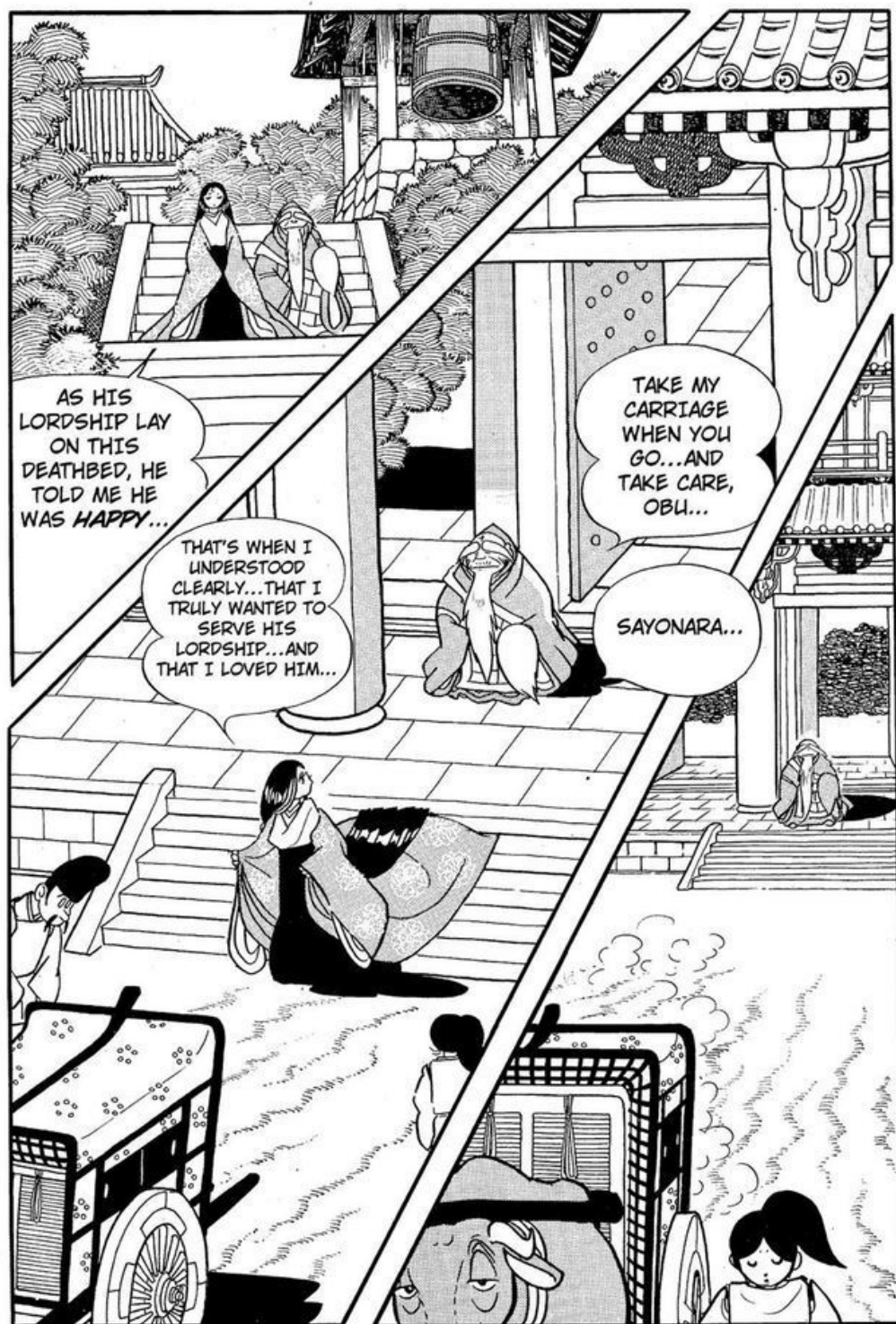












AS HIS  
LORDSHIP LAY  
ON THIS  
DEATHBED, HE  
TOLD ME HE  
WAS **HAPPY**...

THAT'S WHEN I  
UNDERSTOOD  
CLEARLY... THAT I  
TRULY WANTED TO  
SERVE HIS  
LORDSHIP... AND  
THAT I LOVED HIM...

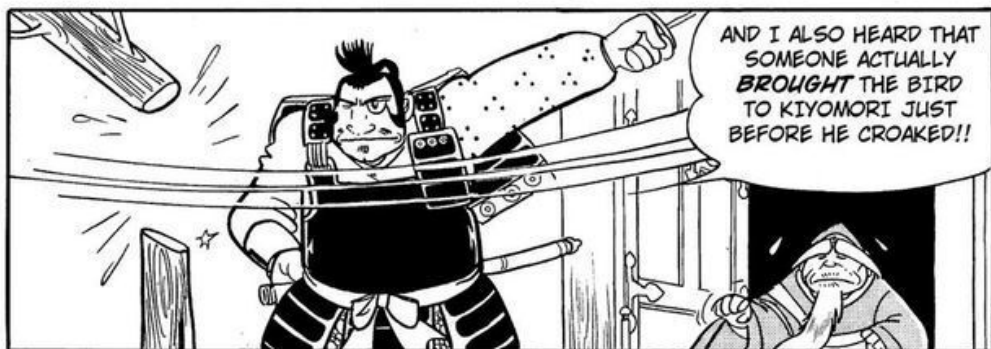
TAKE MY  
CARRIAGE  
WHEN YOU  
GO... AND  
TAKE CARE,  
OBU...

SAYONARA...











WELL, I  
WANT THAT  
FIREBIRD  
FOR  
MYSELF!

EVER SINCE I  
FIRST HEARD THE  
STORY, I'VE BEEN  
DREAMING THAT  
I'D FIND THE BIRD  
WHEN I ENTERED  
THE CAPITAL!

BUT I CAN'T  
LOCATE THE  
BLASTED THING  
ANYWHERE!

OF COURSE YOU  
CAN'T FIND THE  
FIREBIRD...IT  
WAS JUST AN  
ORDINARY BIRD,  
THAT'S WHY!

NO! YOU'RE  
LYING!

HOW CAN A BIRD  
THAT KIYOMORI  
PAID A FORTUNE  
FOR TO SOME  
CHINESE TRADERS  
JUST BE AN  
ORDINARY  
BIRD?!

AH, BUT WHY  
DOES A FAMOUS  
WARRIOR LIKE  
YOU EVEN WANT  
THE FIREBIRD'S  
BLOOD? SURELY,  
YOU'RE NOT  
AFRAID OF  
DYING, ARE  
YOU?

HAH!!









KISO  
YOSHINAKA?!  
WHAT'S HE  
DOING HERE  
ON MT.  
KURAMA?!

HOW THE  
HECK  
SHOULD I  
KNOW!?!?



GRAB  
YOUR  
WEAPONS,  
GUYS!

WE'VE  
GOTTA  
ASSUME  
THE  
WORST  
!



UH OH...LOOK  
AT ALL THOSE  
SOLDIERS...  
I'M SCARED...



"BIRD  
OF  
FIRE"?

HAH! YOU  
IDIOTS!  
OBU TOOK  
IT WITH  
HER WHEN  
SHE  
LEFT...

AN' IT'S  
JUST A  
PLAIN  
OLD  
BIRD!

SAY WHAT YOU  
WANT! BUT WE  
THINK YOU  
SWAPPED A  
REGULAR BIRD  
FOR THE  
FIREBIRD  
WHILE SHE  
WAS  
SLEEPING!

AND  
WE'RE  
HERE  
TO  
FIND  
IT!

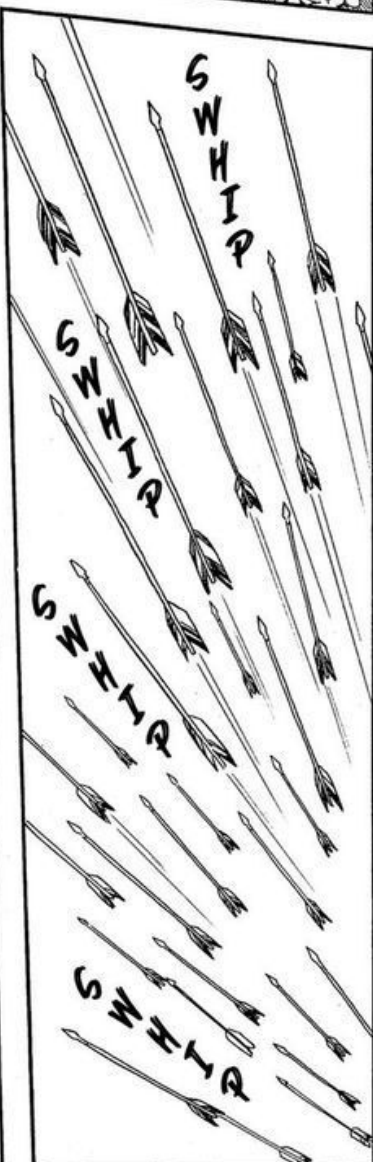
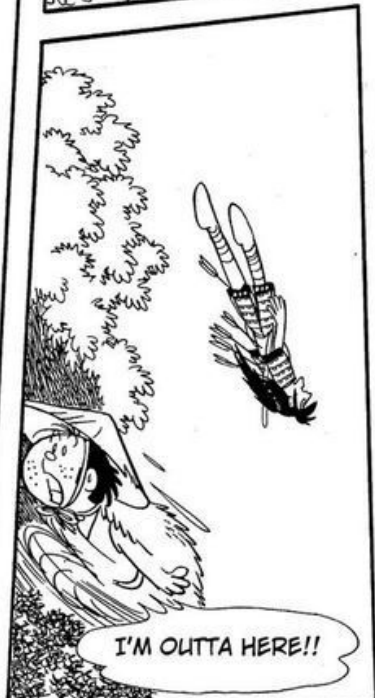
LISTEN CAREFULLY,  
YOU KIDS! WE  
KNOW YOU WERE  
SHELTERING SOME  
LADY CALLED  
FUKUKO! AND WE  
KNOW SHE HAD THE  
**BIRD OF FIRE**  
WITH HER!

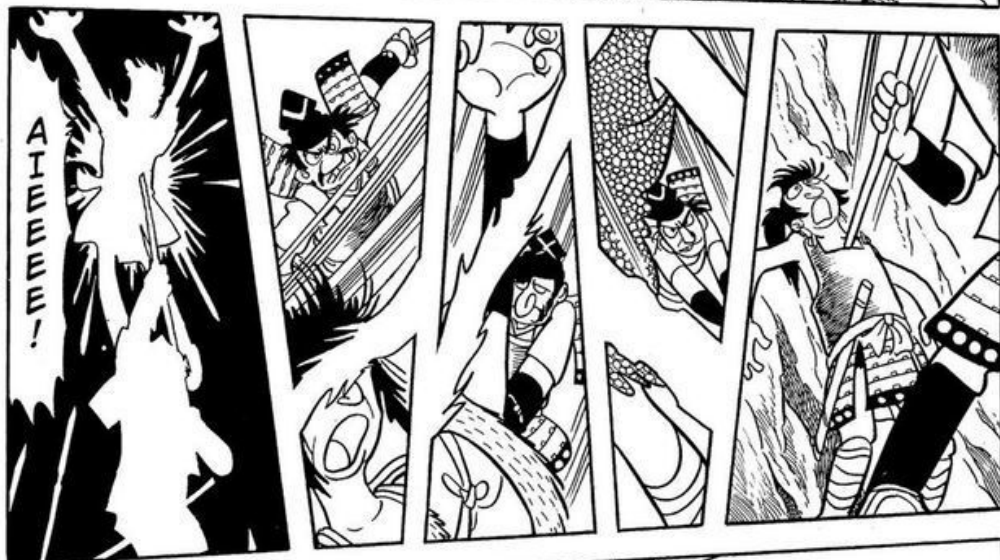
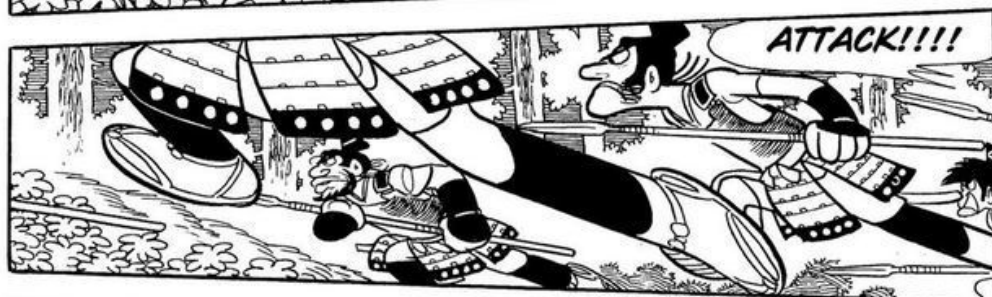
WE'RE SEARCHING  
FOR THE BIRD! SO  
THIS MOUNTAINTOP  
IS **OURS** NOW...  
UNDERSTAND?!



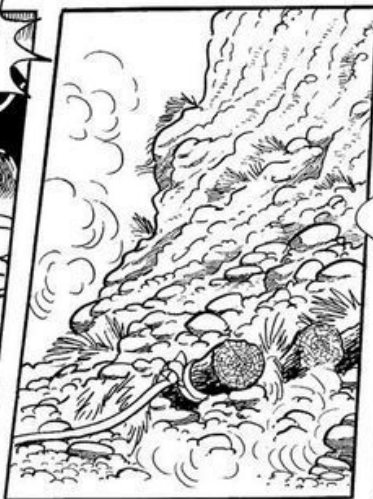
HAH!  
JUST  
TRY!  
FROM  
UP  
HERE,  
WE CAN  
PISS ON  
YOUR  
HEADS  
!



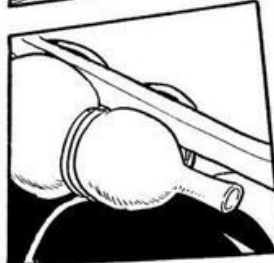
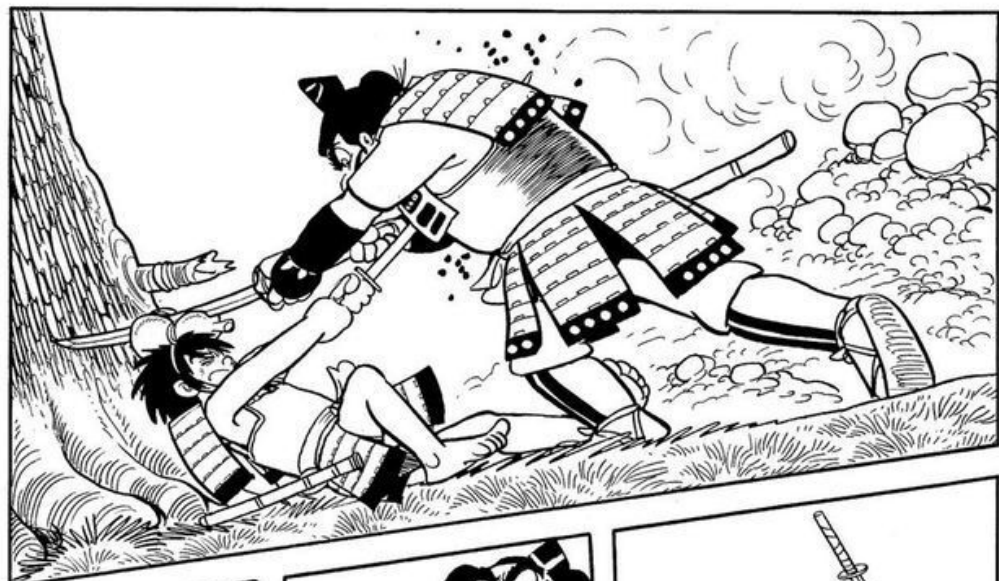




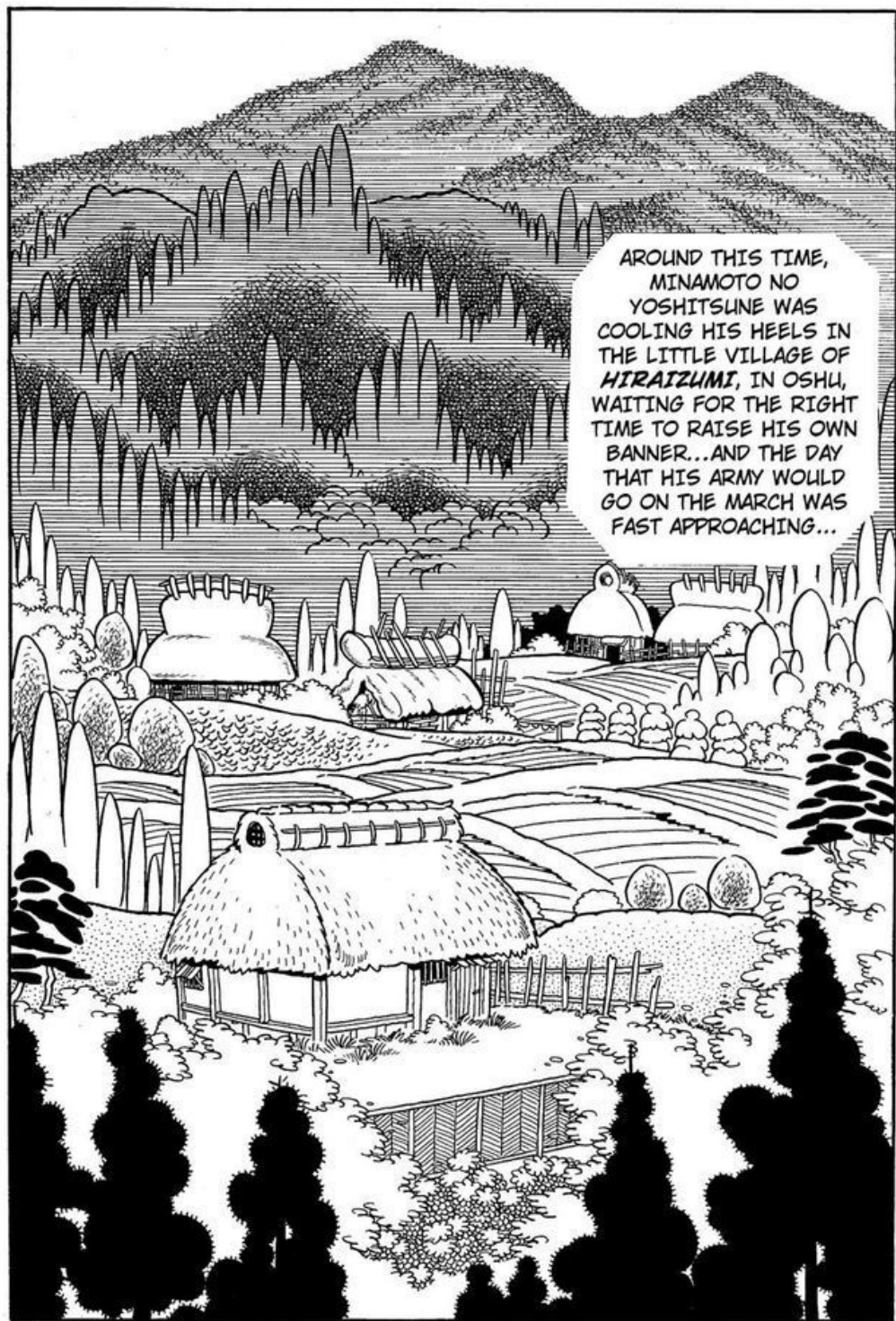




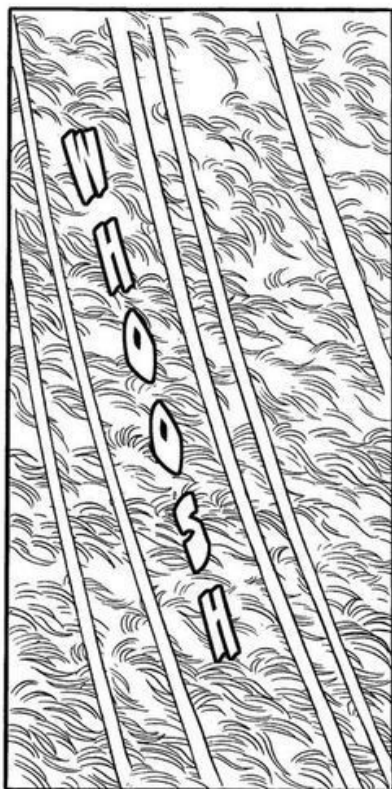
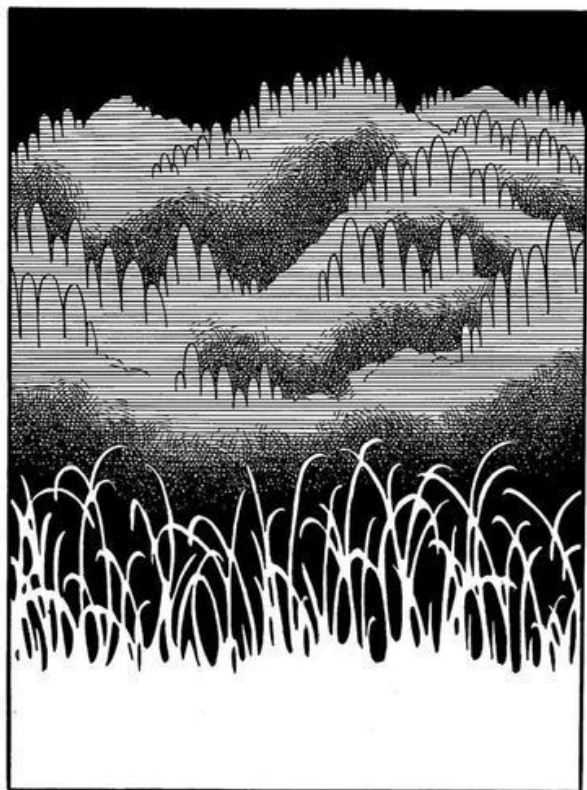




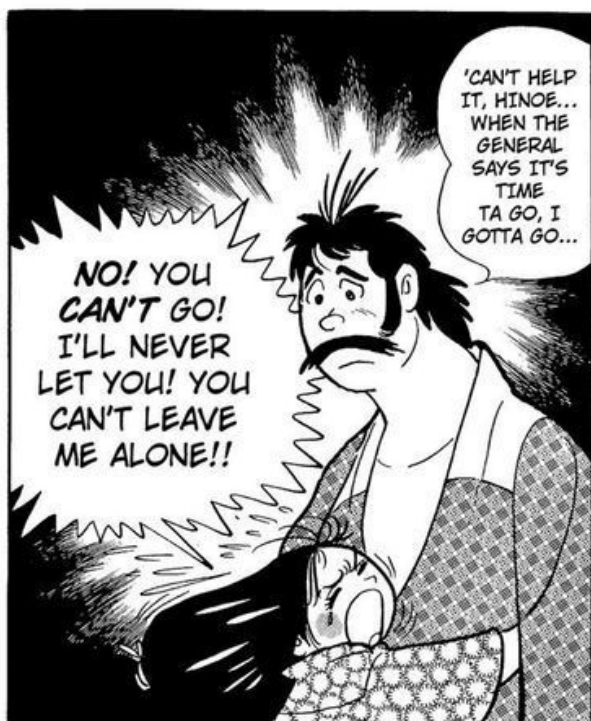




AROUND THIS TIME,  
MINAMOTO NO  
YOSHITSUNE WAS  
COOLING HIS HEELS IN  
THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF  
**HIRAIZUMI**, IN OSHU,  
WAITING FOR THE RIGHT  
TIME TO RAISE HIS OWN  
BANNER...AND THE DAY  
THAT HIS ARMY WOULD  
GO ON THE MARCH WAS  
FAST APPROACHING...



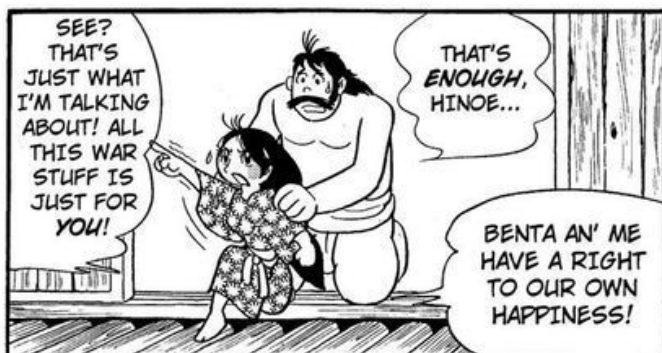




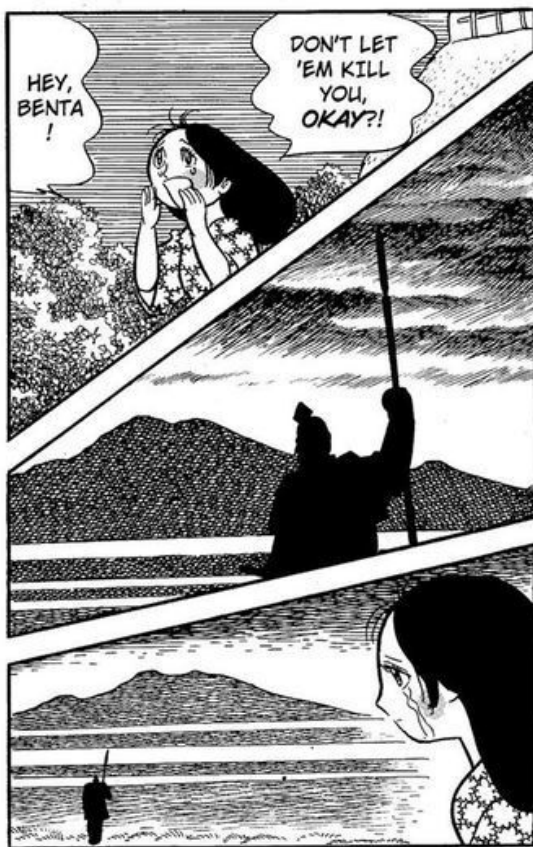


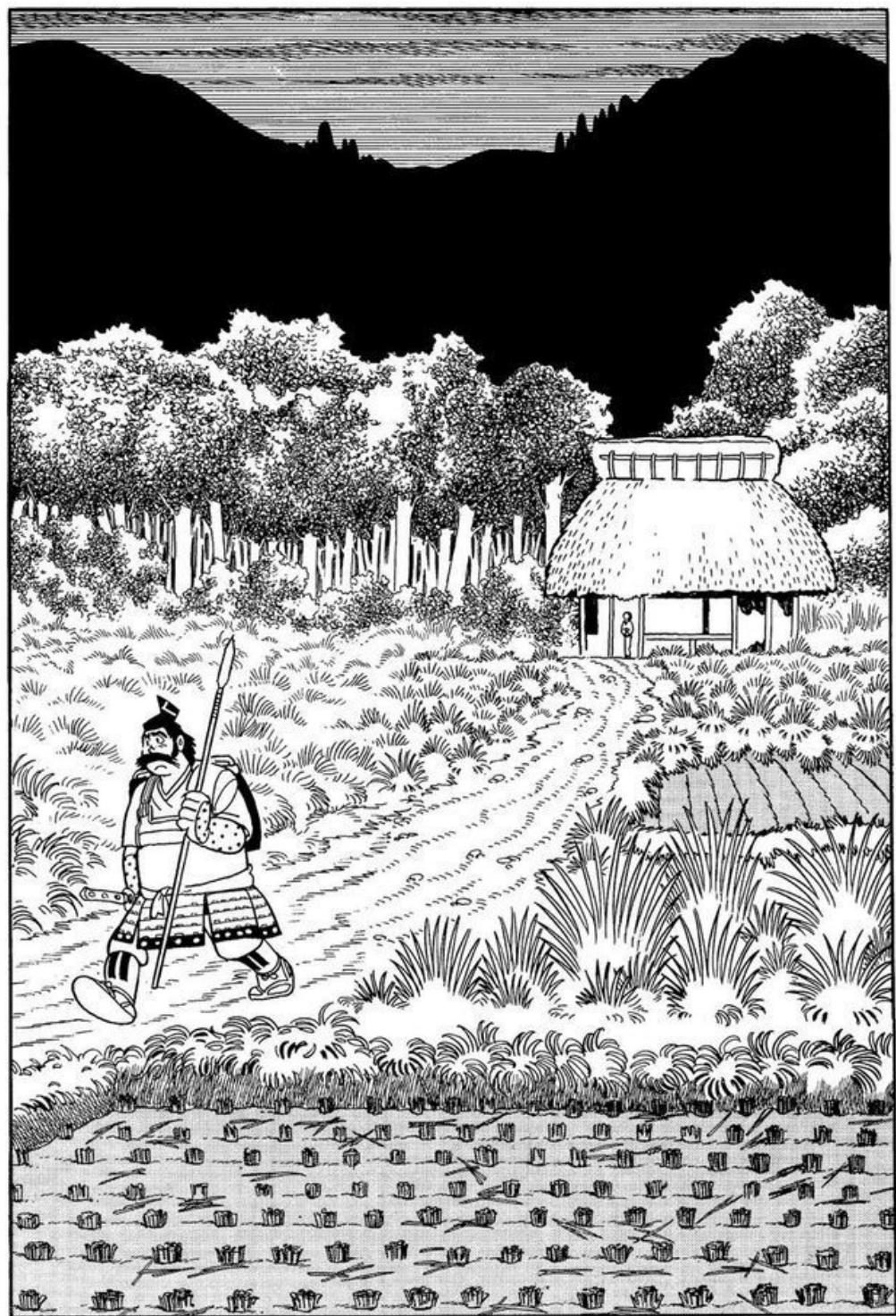




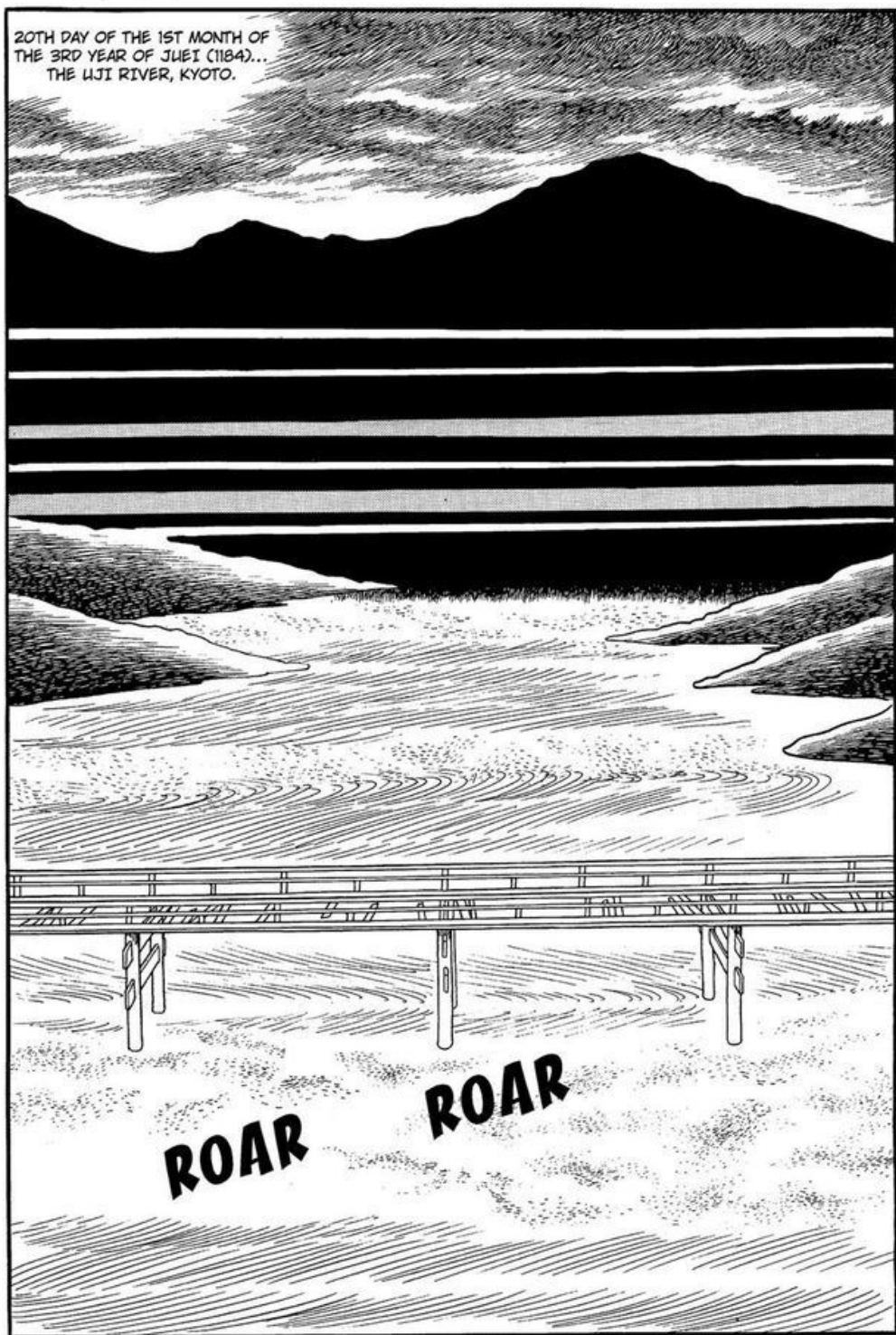




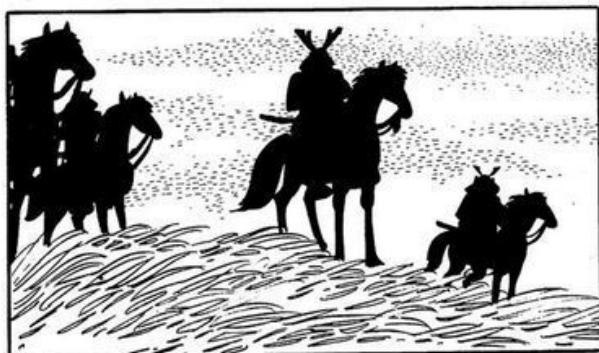
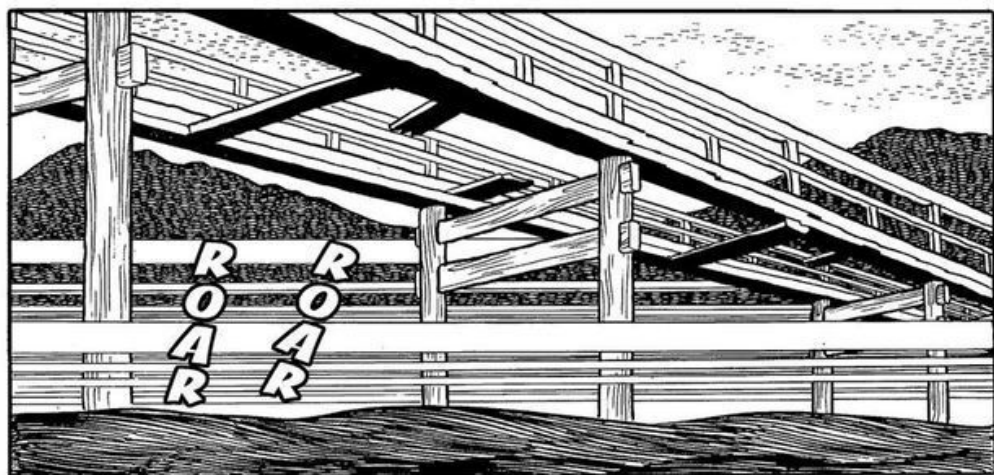




20TH DAY OF THE 1ST MONTH OF  
THE 3RD YEAR OF JUEI (1184)...  
THE UJI RIVER, KYOTO.





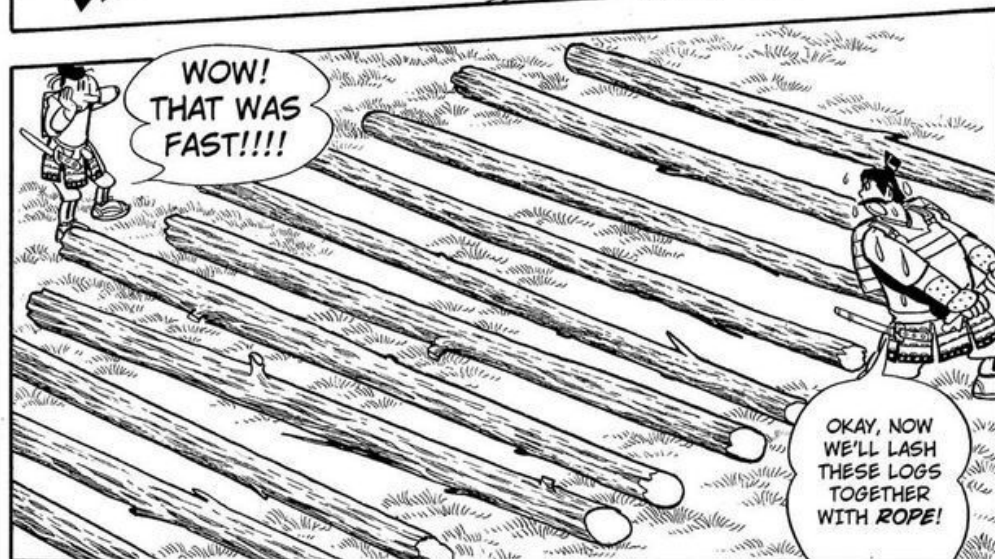
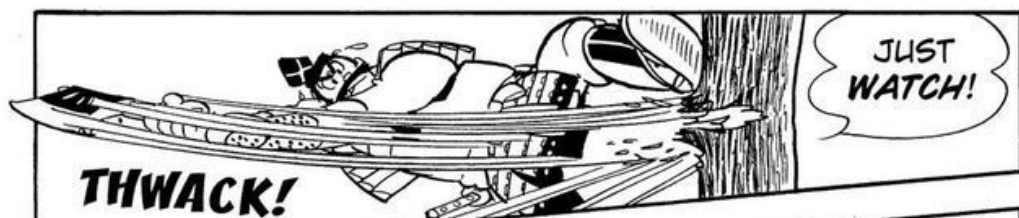




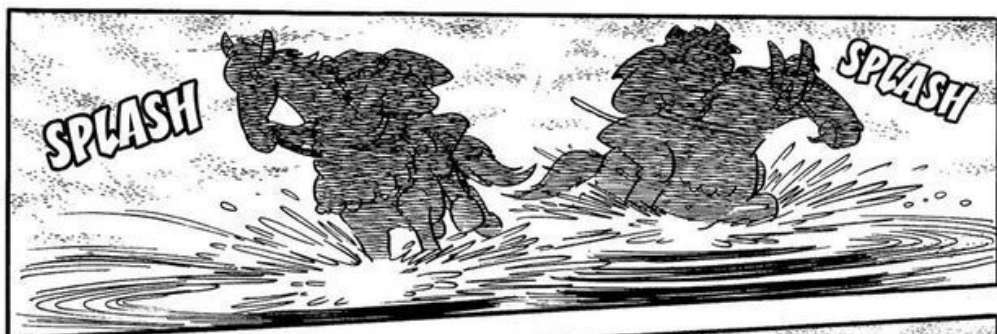


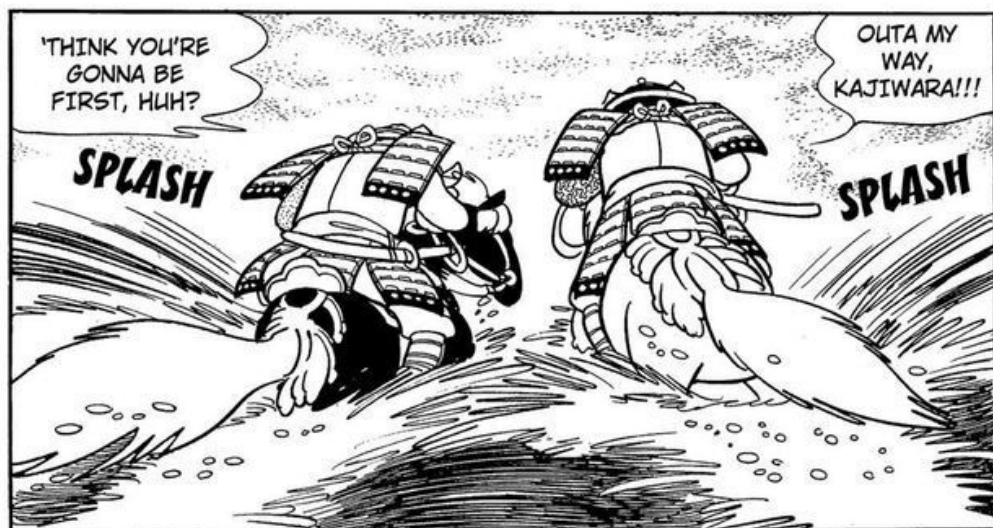


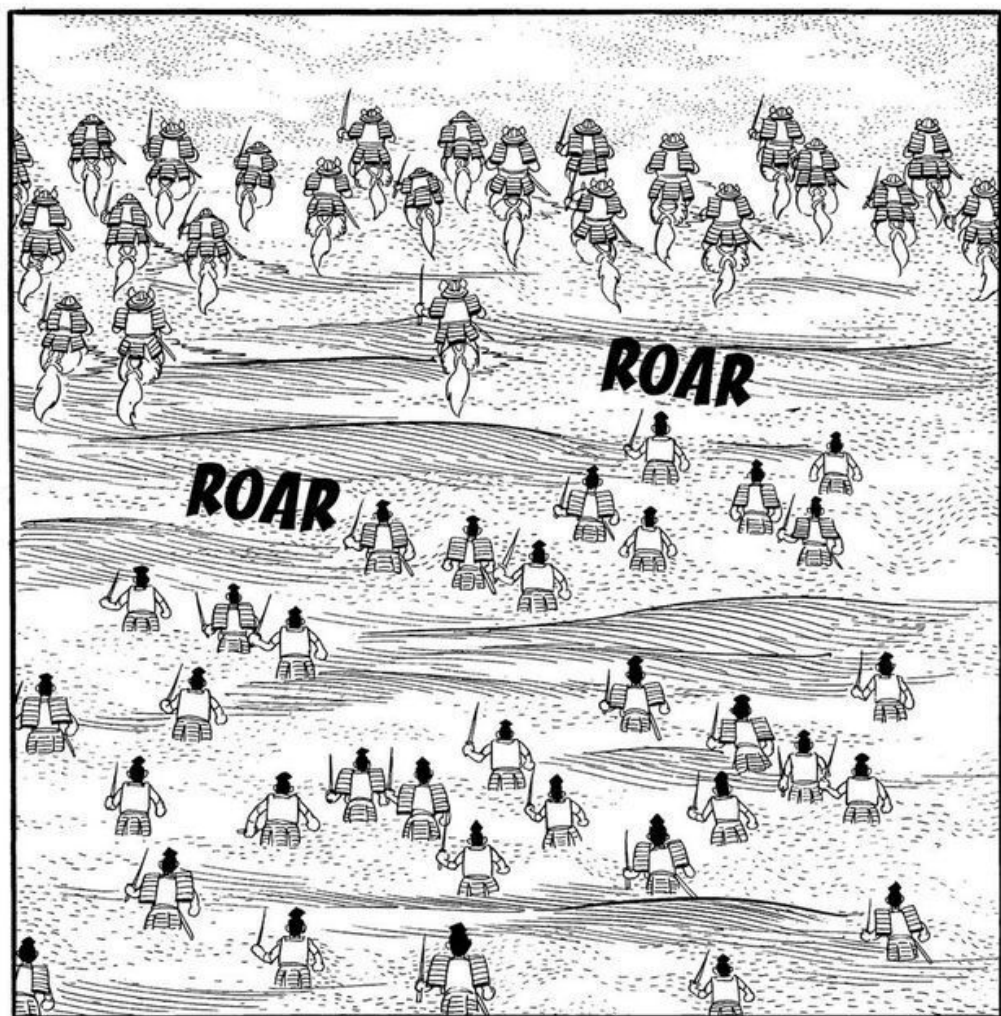


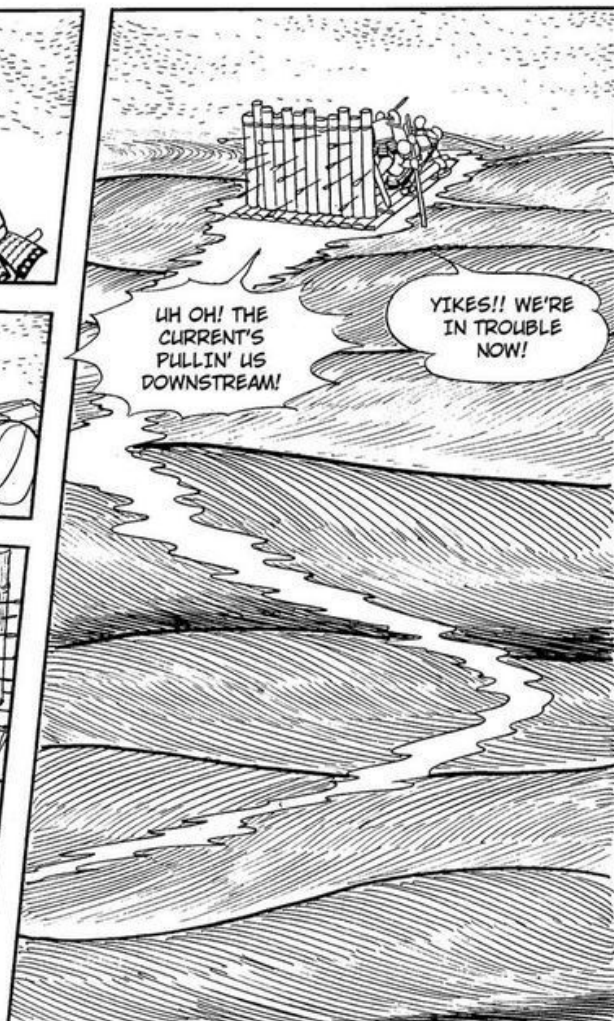
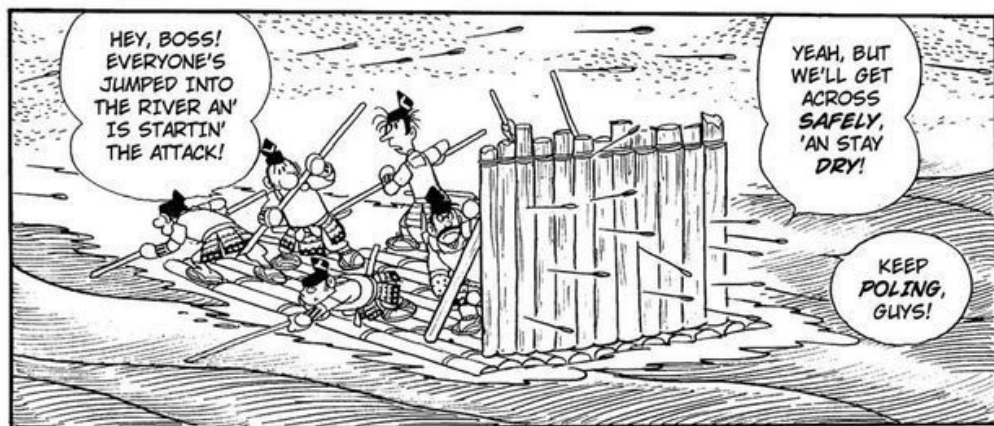




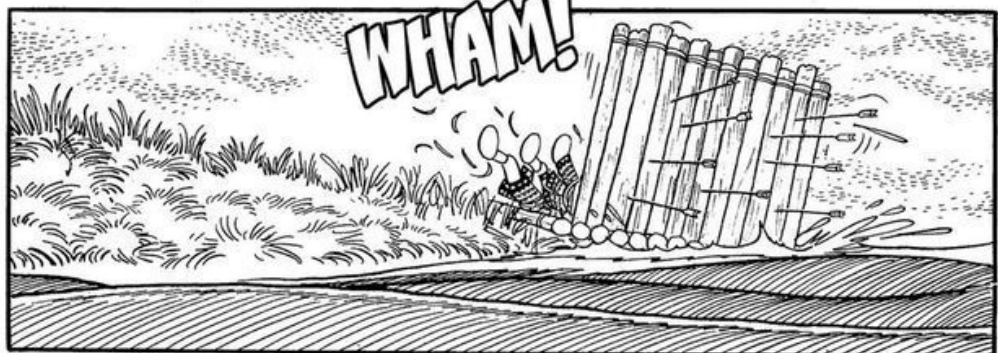
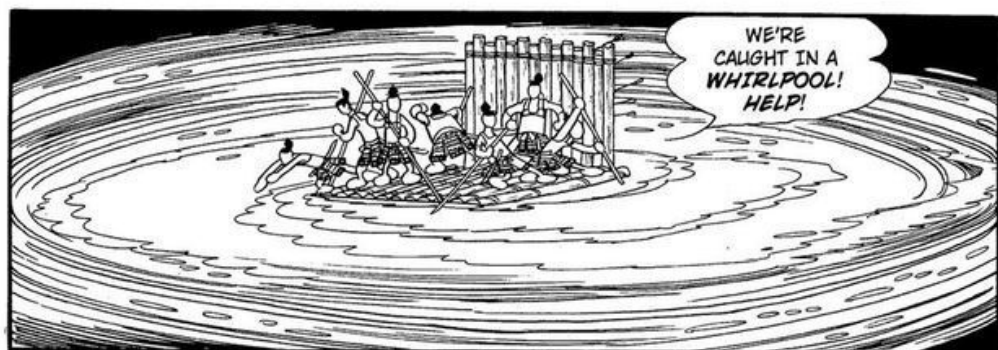




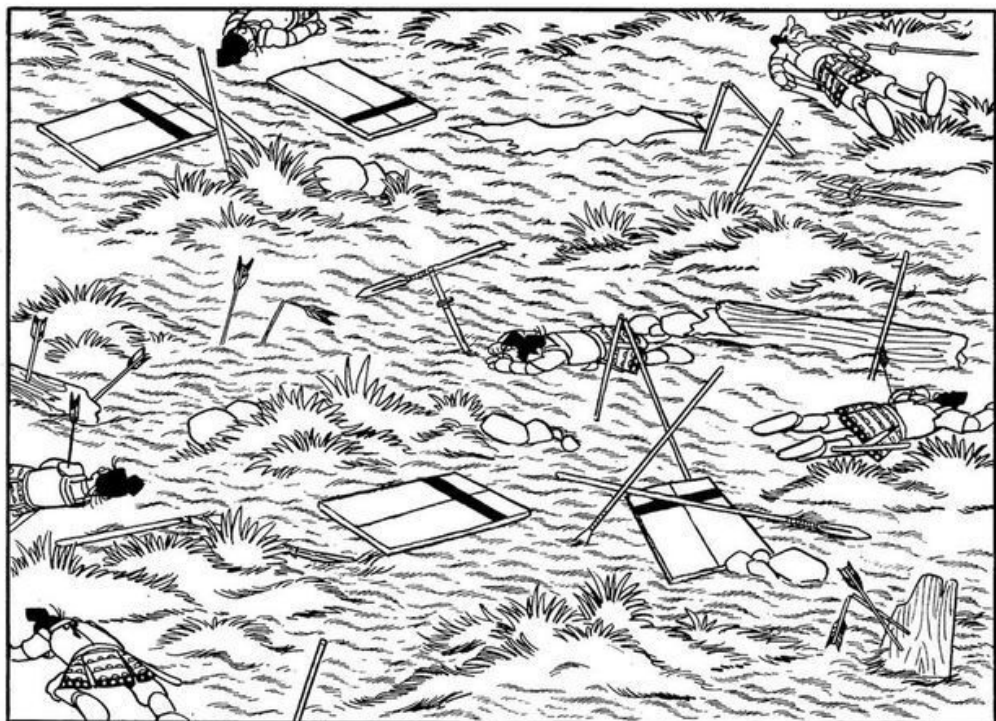




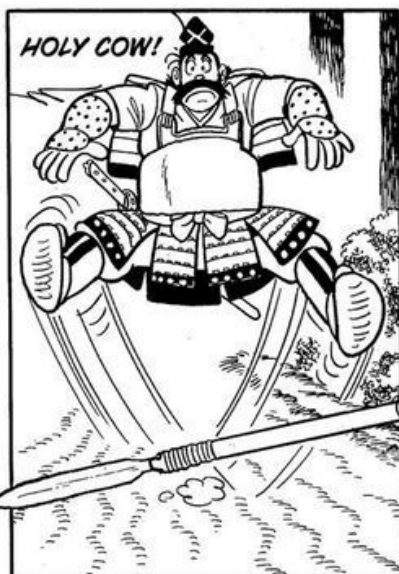


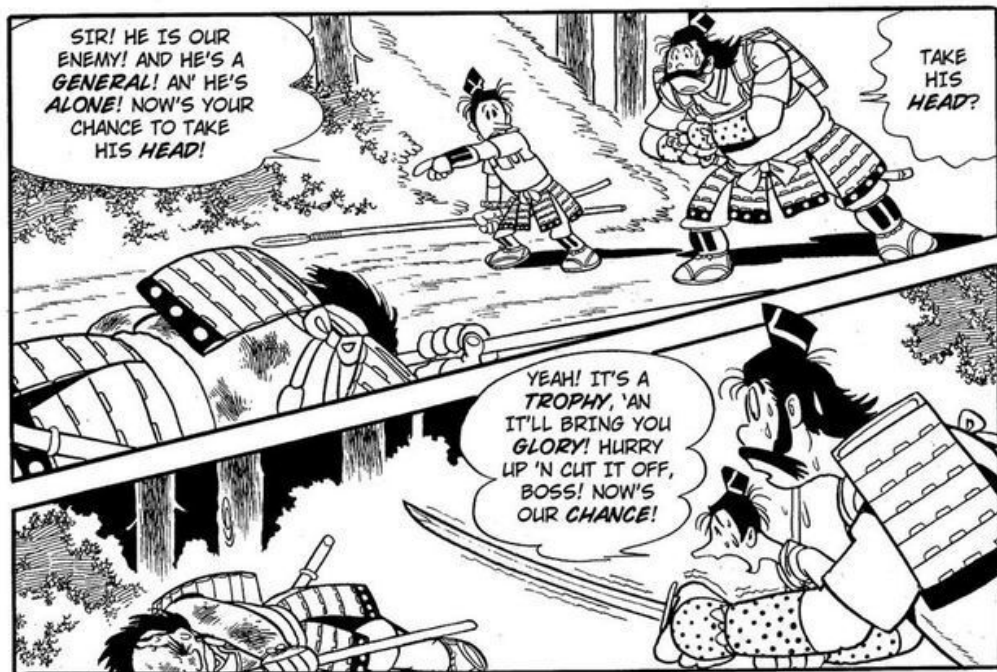
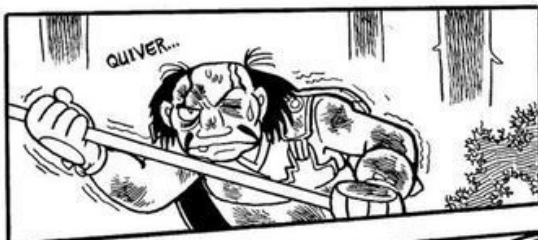
















WAIT, HE'S STILL  
ALIVE! I CAN'T CUT  
HIS HEAD OFF  
WHILE HE'S ALIVE...  
HE'S GOTTA  
BE DEAD...



BUT THAT'S THE  
IDEA...YOU KILL  
'EM AND THEN  
YOU CUT OFF  
THEIR HEADS...

YUP...  
YA GOTTA  
KILL 'EM  
FIRST...



WELL, YOU  
GUYS DO IT!  
THEN I'LL CUT  
OFF HIS  
HEAD...

NO WAY,  
BOSS,  
NOT  
ME...



BESIDES,  
KILLING'S A  
SAMURAI'S  
JOB, RIGHT?

YEAH! WE'RE  
JUST FOOT  
SOLDIERS...



YOU GUYS'RE  
USELESS...  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE WE'RE  
KILLING A  
RABBIT OR A  
FIELD MOUSE  
HERE...



IN FACT, WE  
OUGHTA **HELP**  
HIM...

GO GET  
SOME  
WATER...  
QUICK...

BUT, BOSS,  
SAVIN' THE  
ENEMY'S  
AGAINST THE  
RULES!!!!

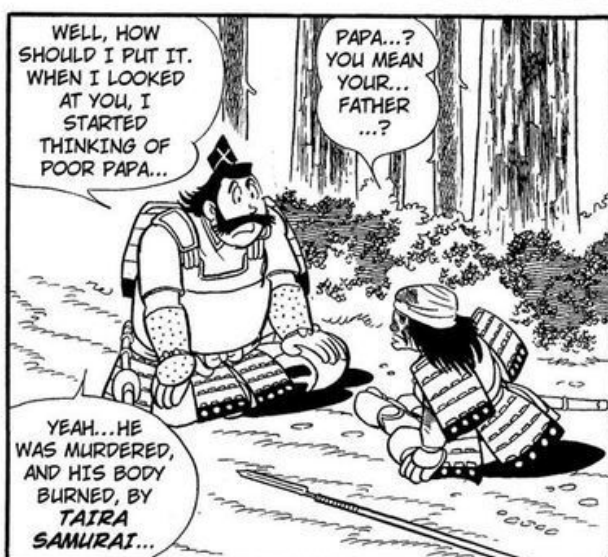
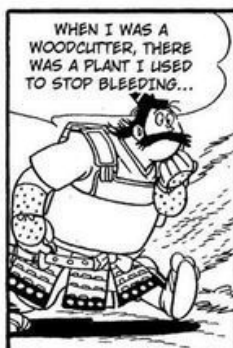


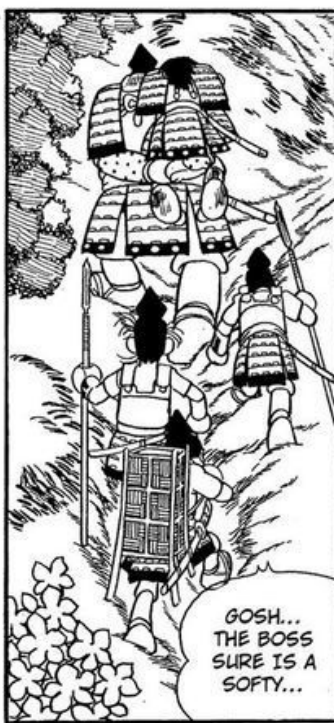
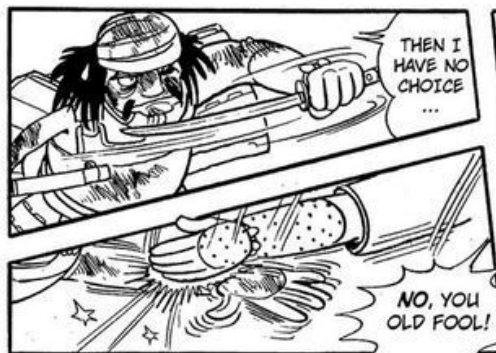
HEY!  
I'M  
**ORDER-  
ING**  
YOU...

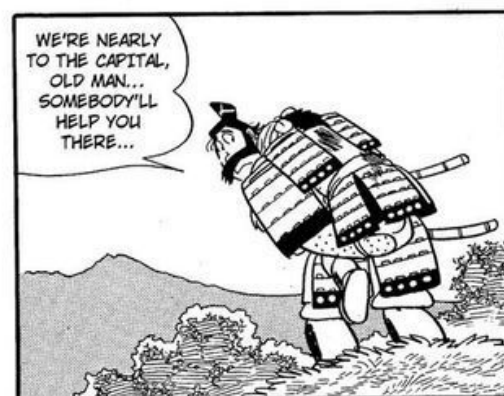
BRING  
SOME  
WATER  
AND  
RAGS!  
NOW!

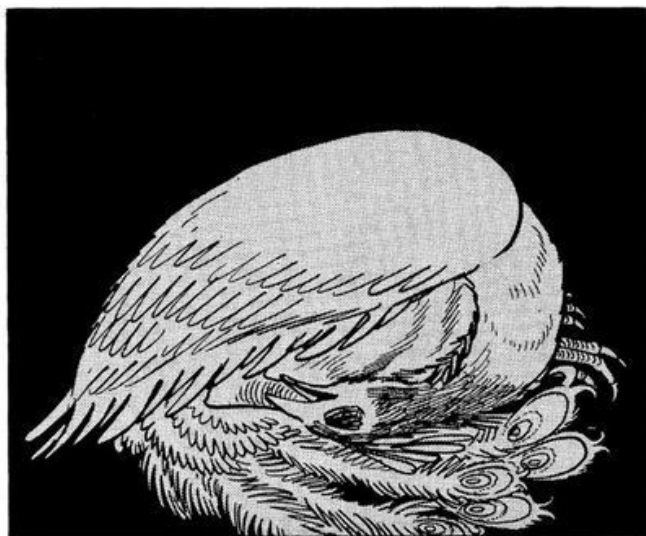
YES,  
SIR!





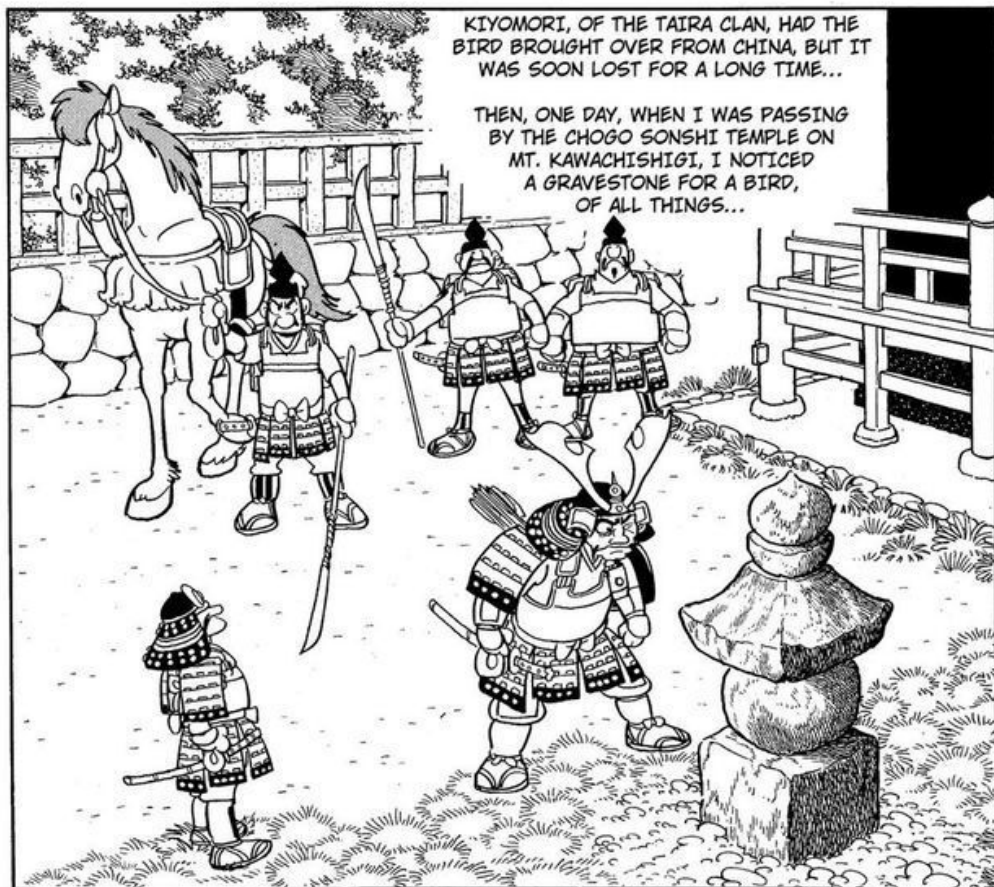








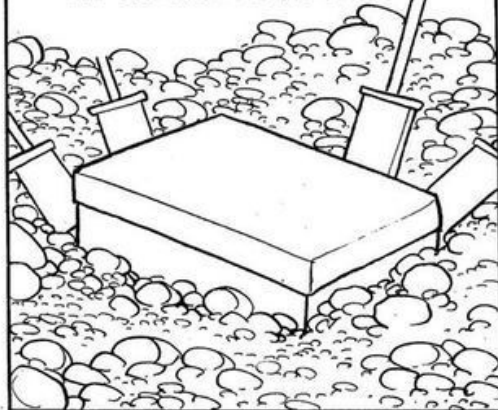




KIYOMORI, OF THE TAIRA CLAN, HAD THE BIRD BROUGHT OVER FROM CHINA, BUT IT WAS SOON LOST FOR A LONG TIME...

THEN, ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS PASSING BY THE CHOGO SONSHI TEMPLE ON MT. KAWACHISHIGI, I NOTICED A GRAVESTONE FOR A BIRD, OF ALL THINGS...

I ASKED THE TEMPLE'S ABBOT ABOUT IT, AND LO AND BEHOLD, SOON HIGH PRIEST MYOUN OF THE TENDAI SECT APPEARED. HE TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT A BIRD HAD BEEN BURIED THERE, AND THAT A SERVICE HAD BEEN HELD FOR ITS SOUL...

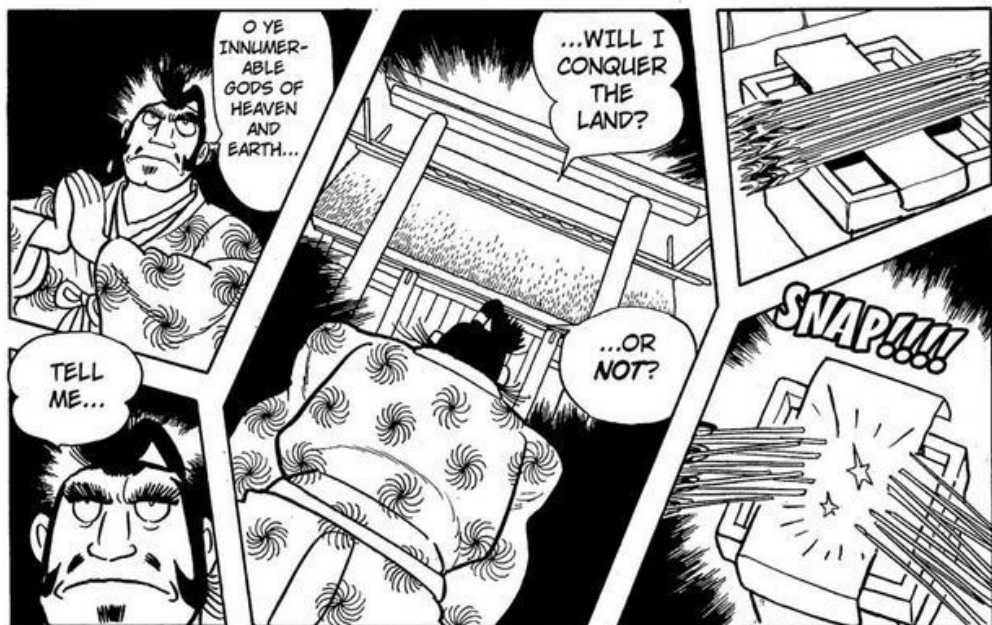
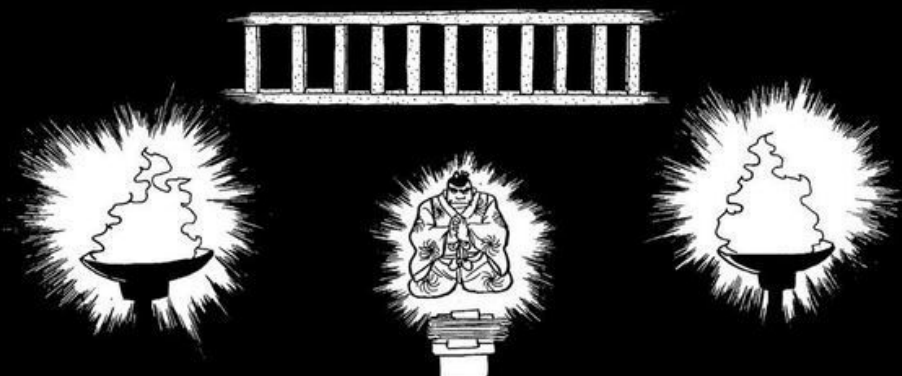


I DUG IT UP AND, SURE ENOUGH, IT WAS THE BIRD OF FIRE...





THERE'S EVEN MORE...WHILE HE WAS STILL IN  
SUIWA, YOSHINAKA MADE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE  
FAMOUS SUIWA SHRINE, AND SPENT SEVERAL DAYS  
PRAYING FOR SUCCESS IN BATTLE. THEN, ON THE  
LAST DAY, THE GODS FINALLY SPOKE TO HIM..





ACK! MY WHOLE  
CLAN **DESTROYED?**!  
NO SURVIVING  
DESCENDANTS  
AT **ALL?** CAN  
THAT REALLY BE  
MY FATE?

B...BUT  
WHAT DID  
THE **BIRD**  
SYMBOLIZE?

NOW...  
LET'S  
SEE...  
A LARGE  
MOUNTAIN  
BIRD...

WHEN I WAS LIVING  
IN THE CAPITAL, I  
RECALL HEARING  
ABOUT A BIRD  
WHOSE BLOOD HELD  
THE SECRET TO  
ETERNAL LIFE...

IT WAS  
CALLED THE  
BIRD OF  
FIRE, OR  
**FIREBIRD**...

...I'M SURE IT  
WAS THE SAME BIRD  
THEY SAY KIYOMORI  
WAS KEEPING...

SO IT'S  
PROBABLY A **SIGN**...  
MEANING THAT IF  
YOU CAN FIND THE  
FIREBIRD, YOU'LL  
BE ABLE TO **SAVE**  
YOUR **FAMILY**...

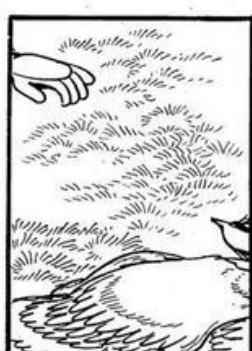
I'M HEADING  
FOR THE  
CAPITAL  
RIGHT  
AWAY...

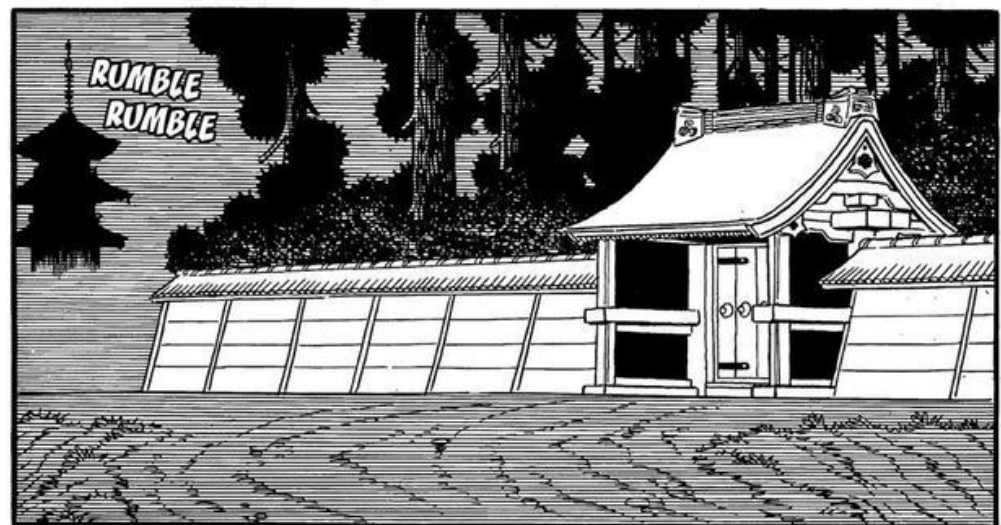
AND I'LL  
FIND THE  
BIRD!

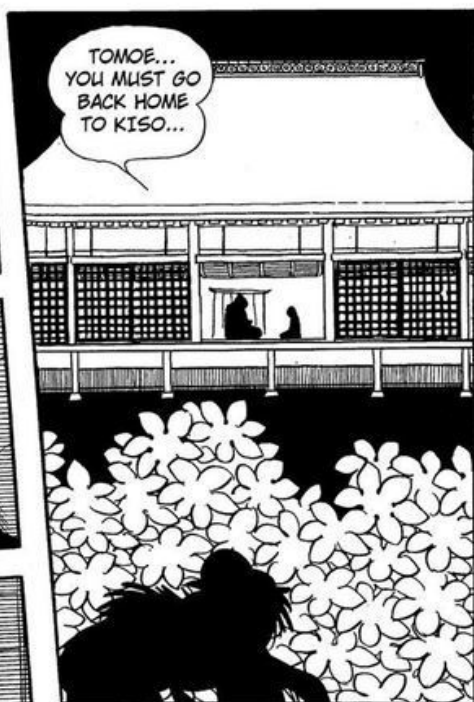
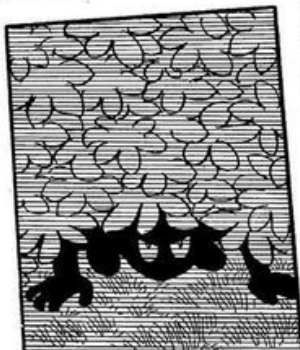
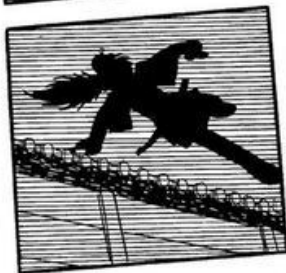
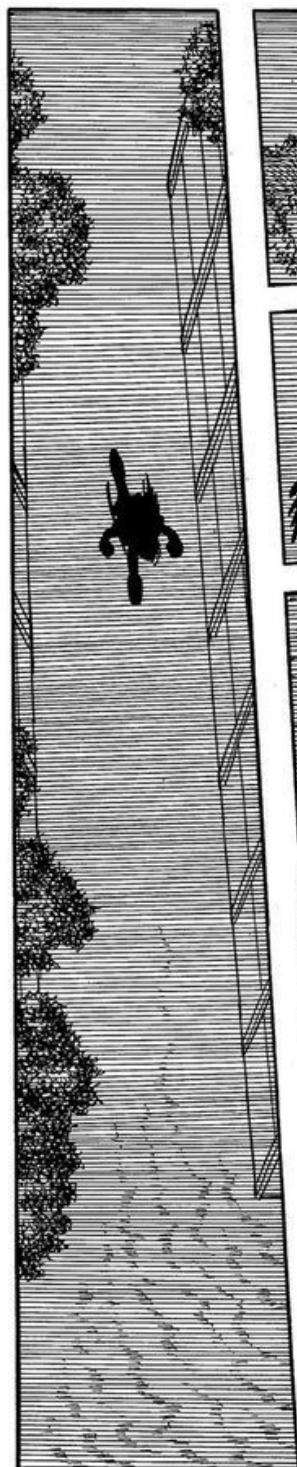
I'M NOT  
AFRAID  
OF  
DYING...

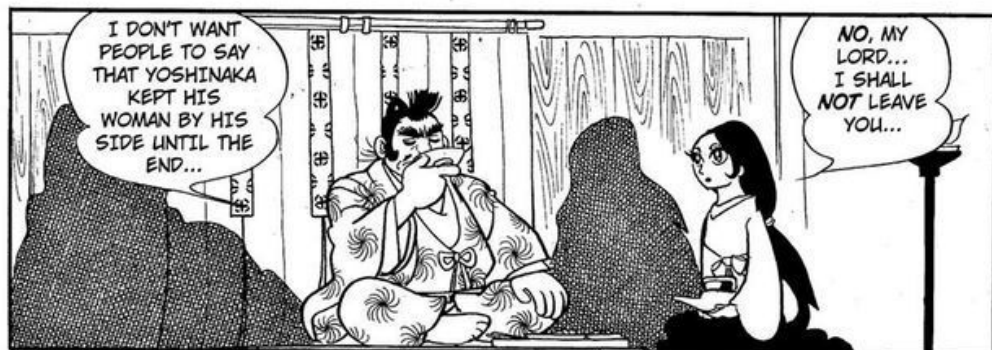
BUT I'LL  
**NEVER** LET  
MY CLAN  
DIE OUT!





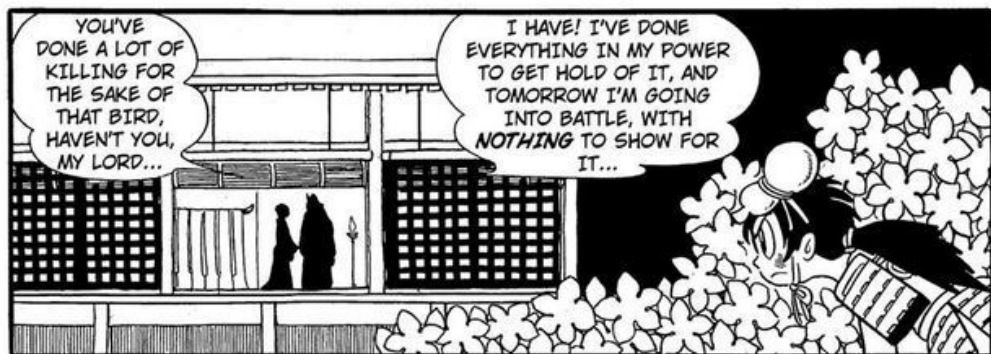


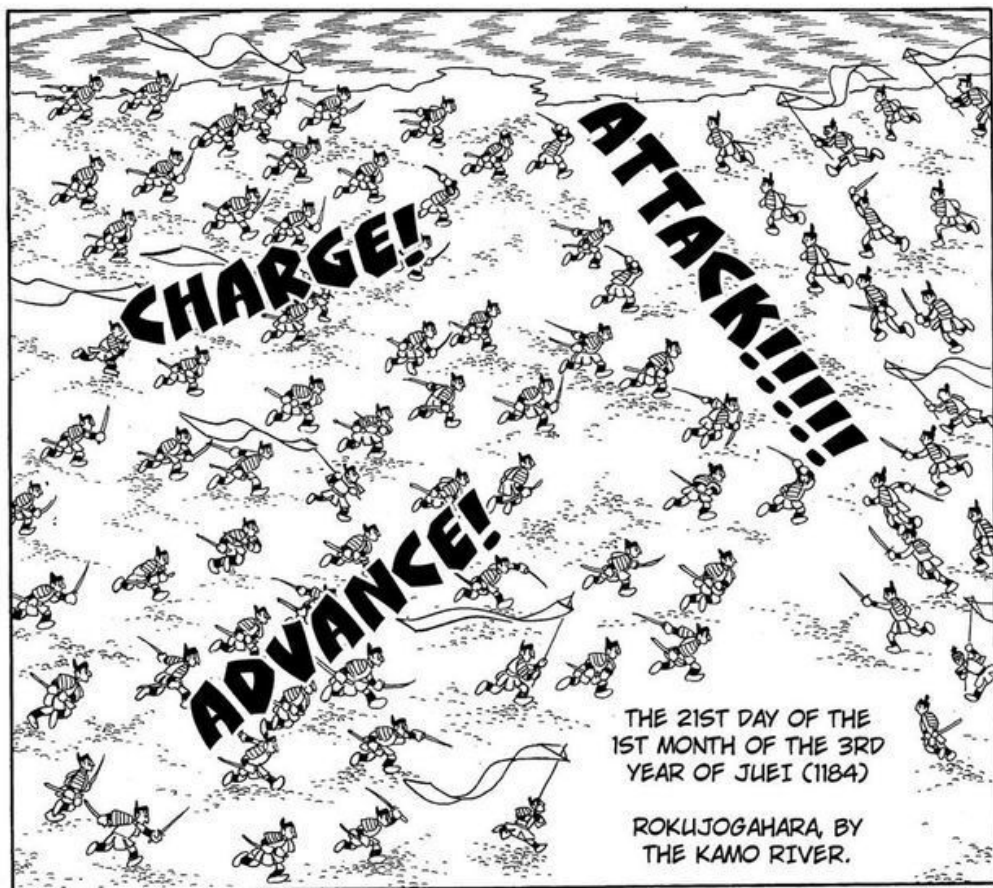


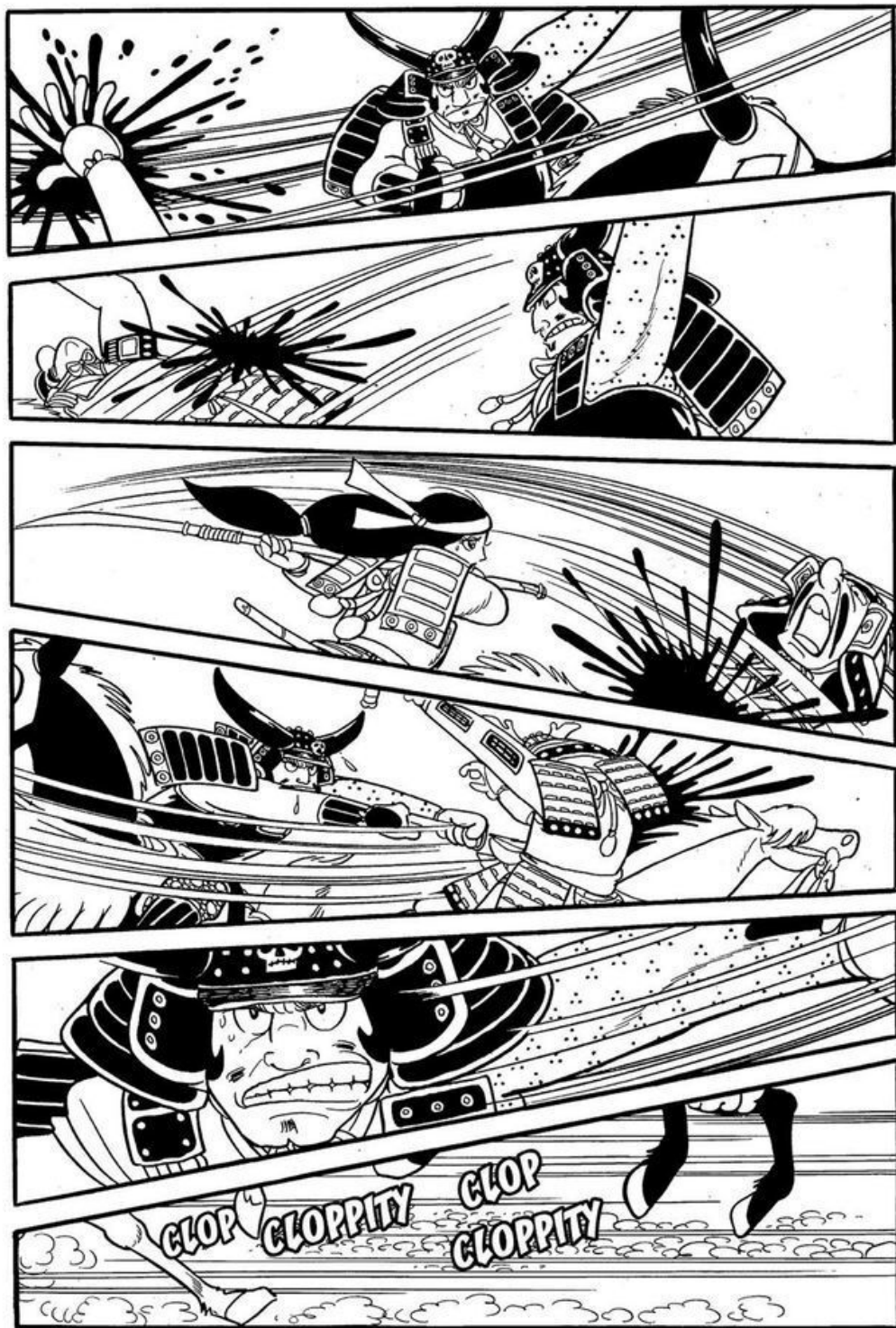


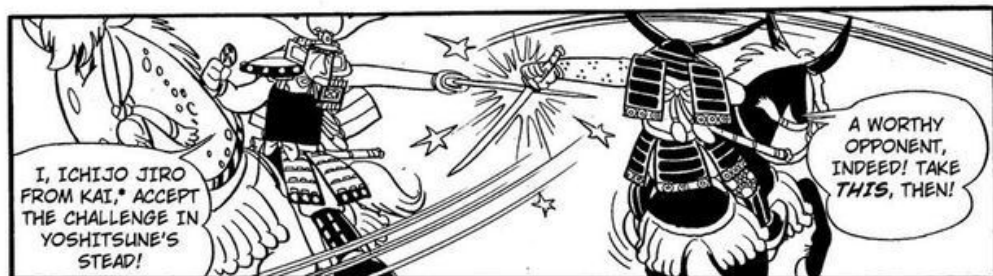
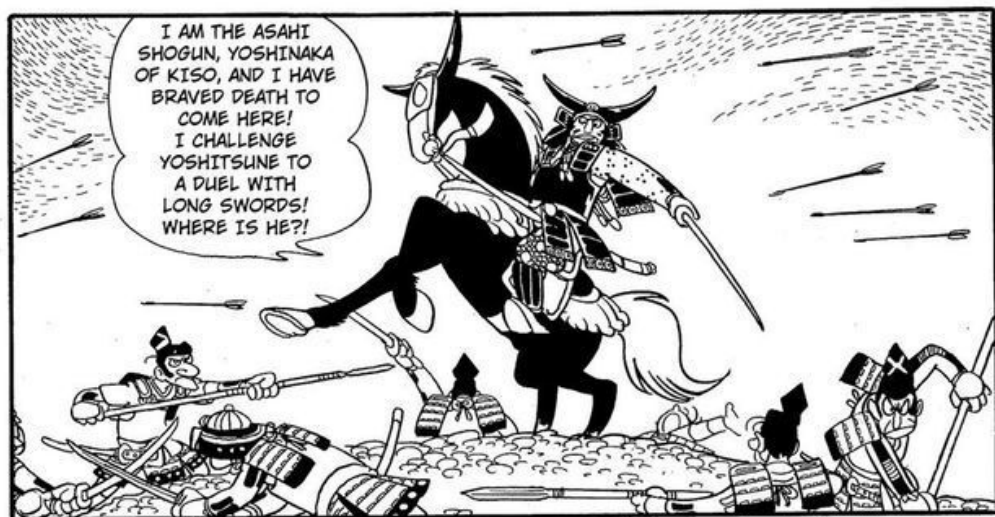




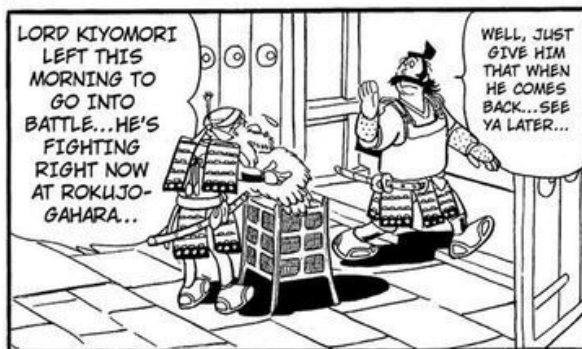
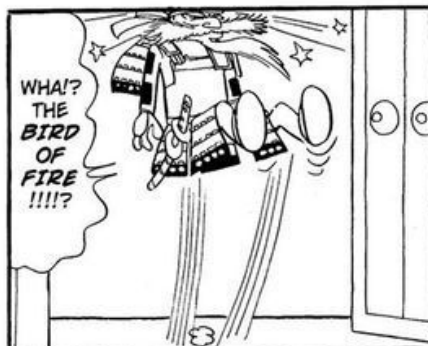








\* NOTE: PRESENT-DAY YAMANASHI PREFECTURE

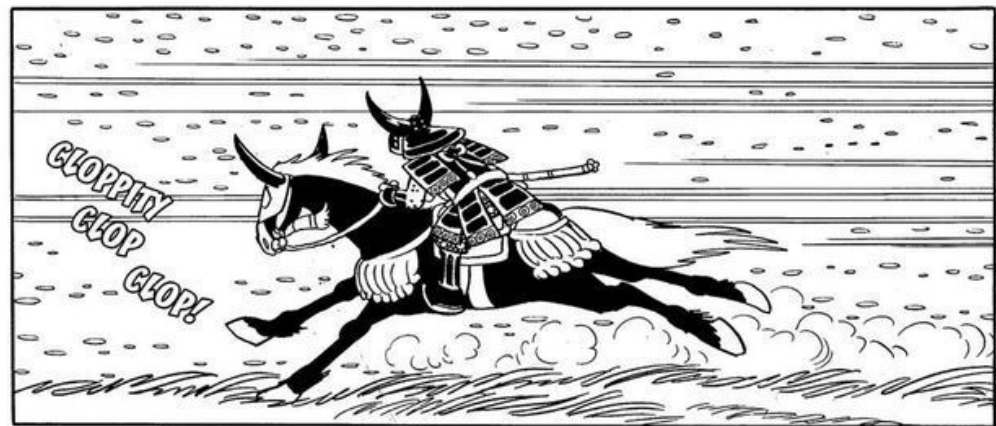






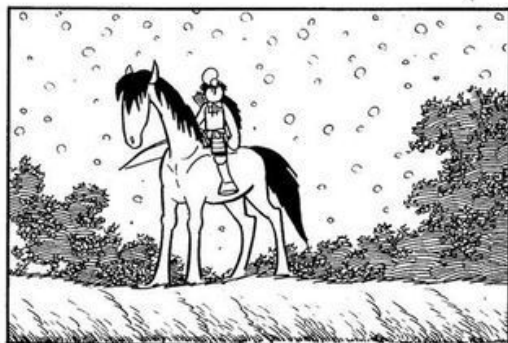




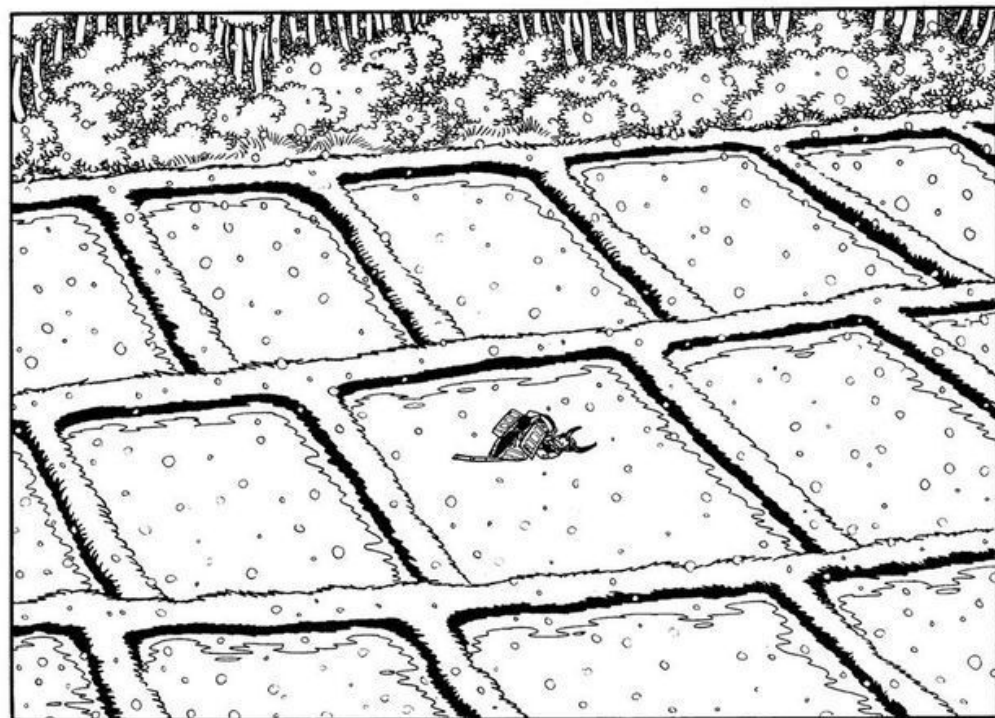


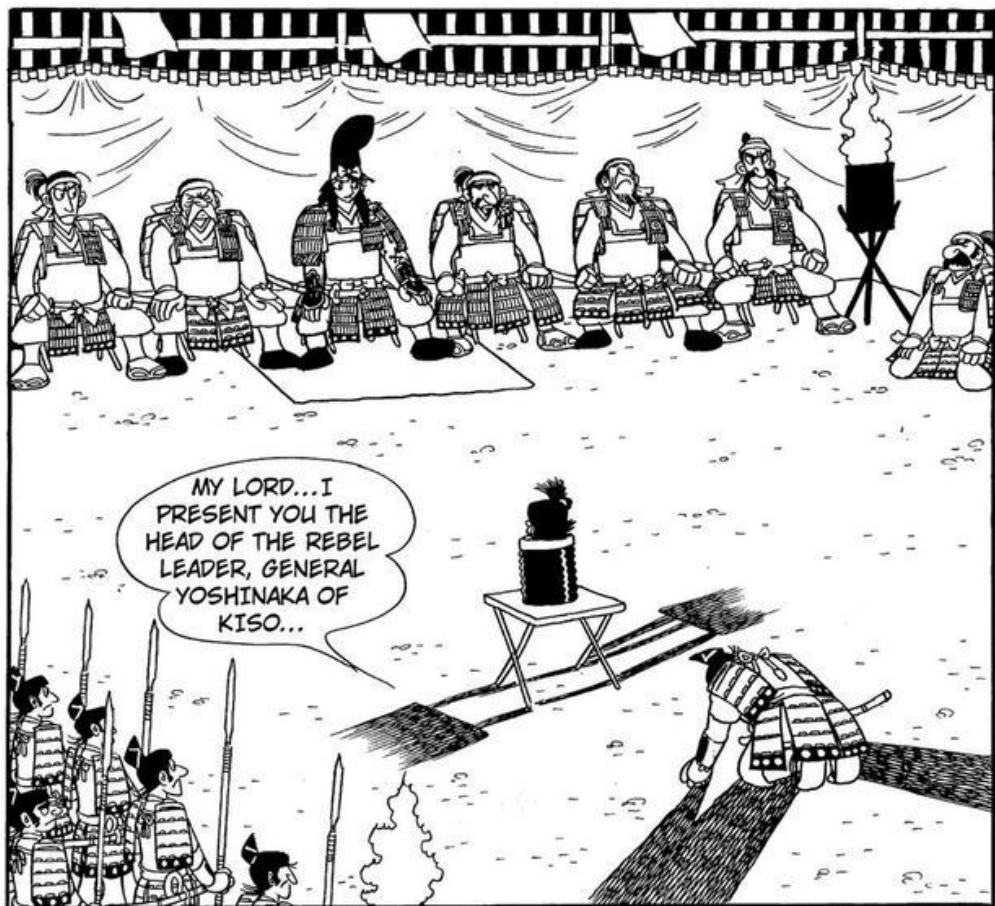


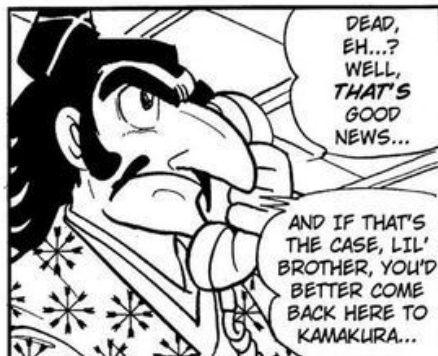






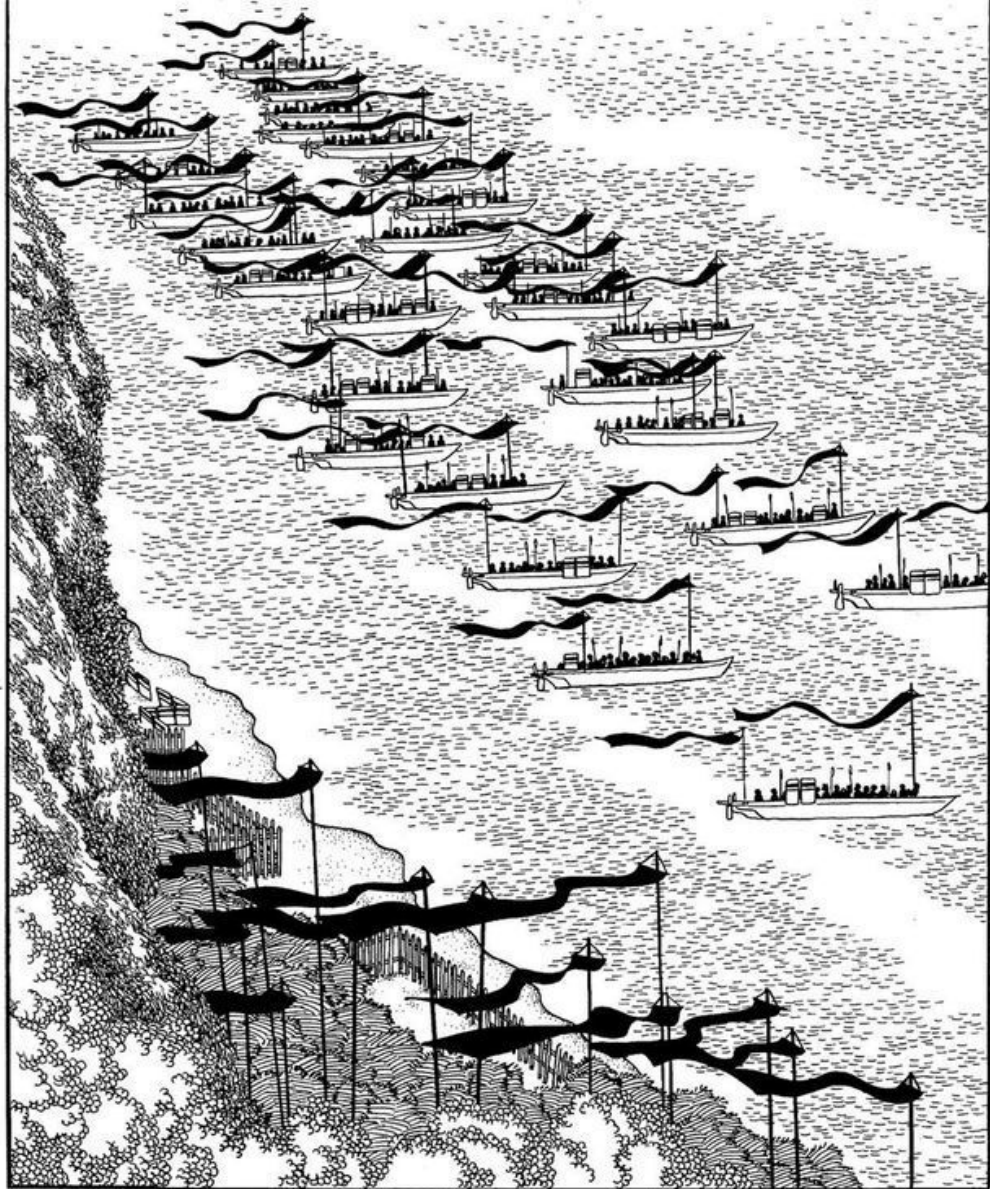


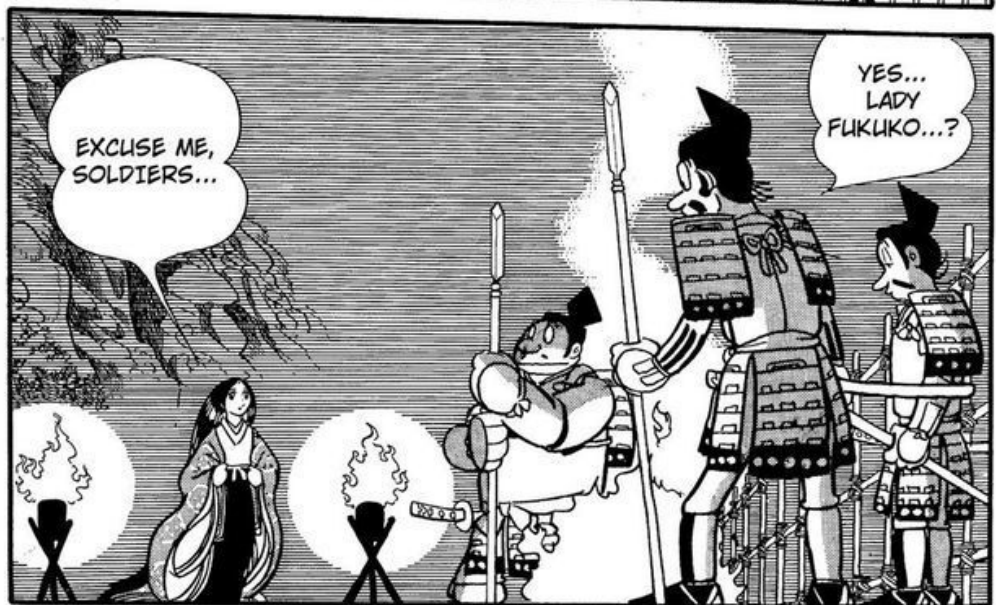
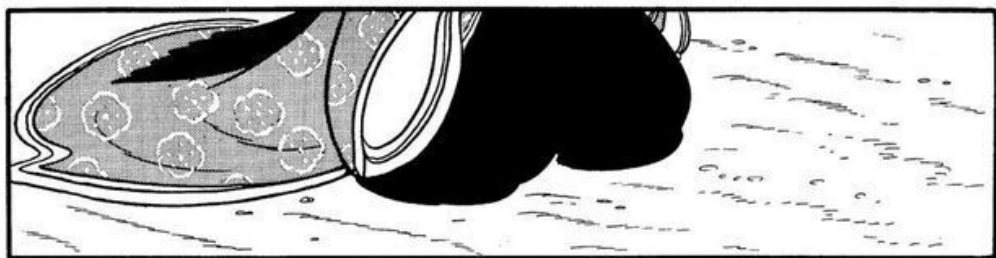




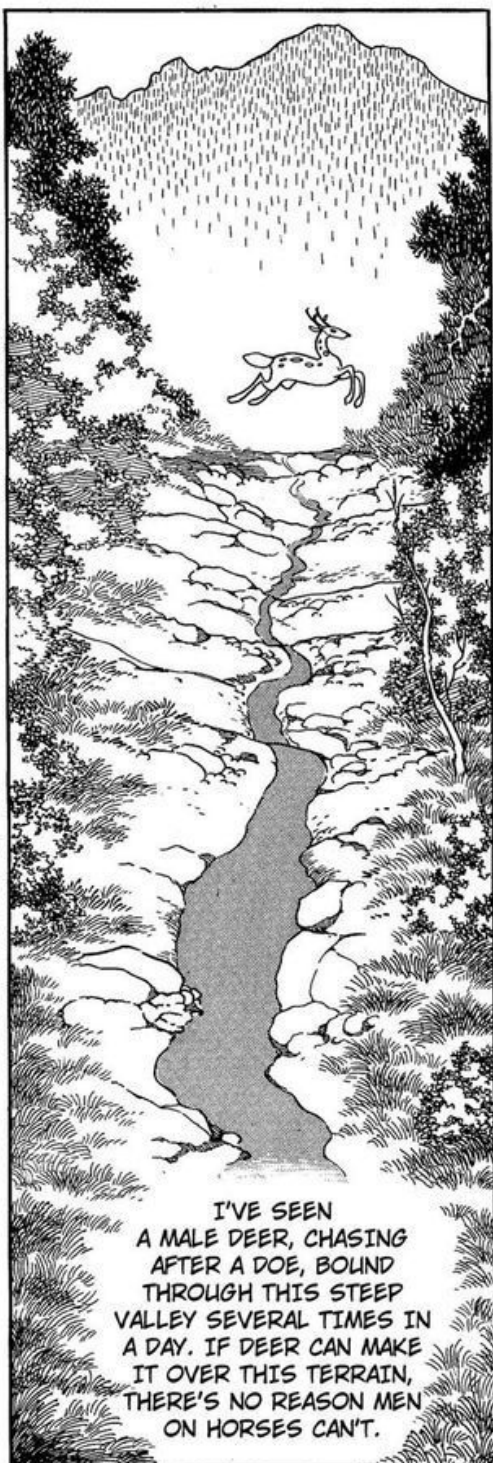


THE TAIRA ASSEMBLED LINE AFTER LINE OF  
TROOPS ON THE SHORE OF THE RECENTLY  
ABANDONED CAPITAL OF FUKUHARA, IN HYOGO  
PROVINCE. AND THEY DEPLOYED SO MANY BOATS  
THAT IT RESEMBLED A LAYER OF FOG UPON  
THE SEA. AND THERE THEY WAITED...  
FOR YOSHITSUNE'S FORCES TO ATTACK....









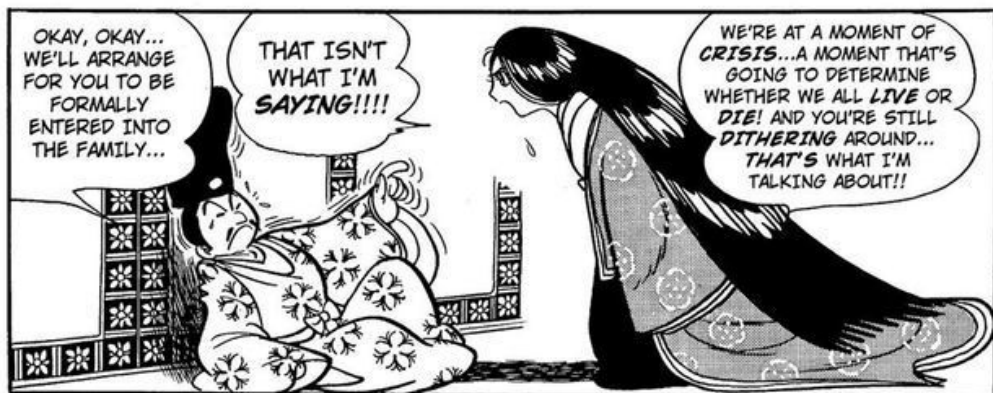


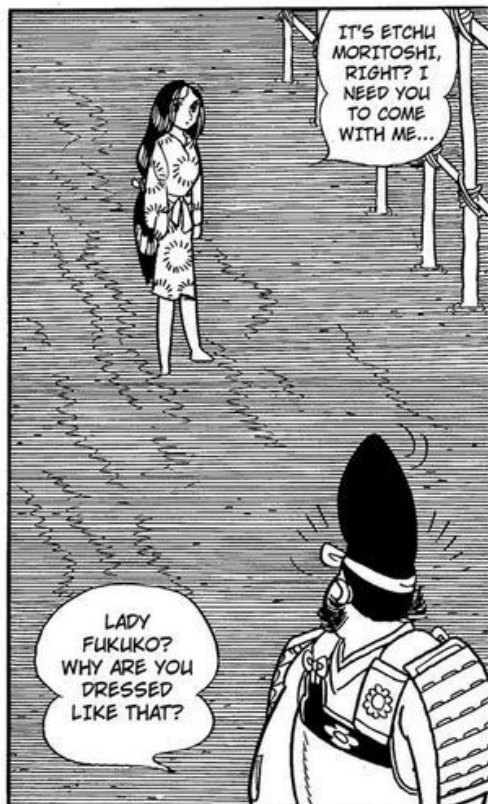
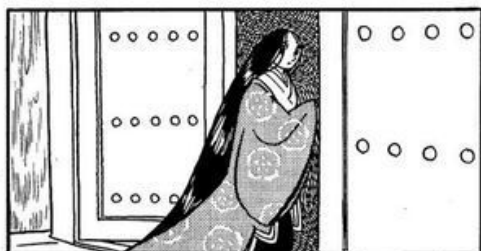
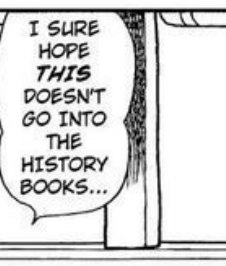


















ANYTHING  
WRONG  
WITH  
THAT?

N..NO...NOT  
AT ALL...I WAS  
ACTUALLY BORN A  
MEMBER OF THE  
TAIRA ARISTOCRACY  
MYSELF, BUT DUE TO  
A CERTAIN MISTAKE,  
MY NAME WAS  
DELETED FROM  
THE FAMILY  
REGISTRY, AND I  
WAS "DEMOTED"  
TO BEING A  
SAMURAI...

WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN BY  
"MISTAKE"  
?



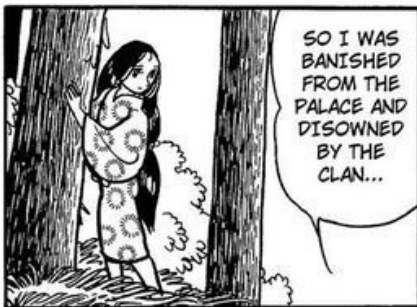
HEH, HEH...  
WELL, I FELL  
IN LOVE  
WITH A  
COMMONER...



OH...



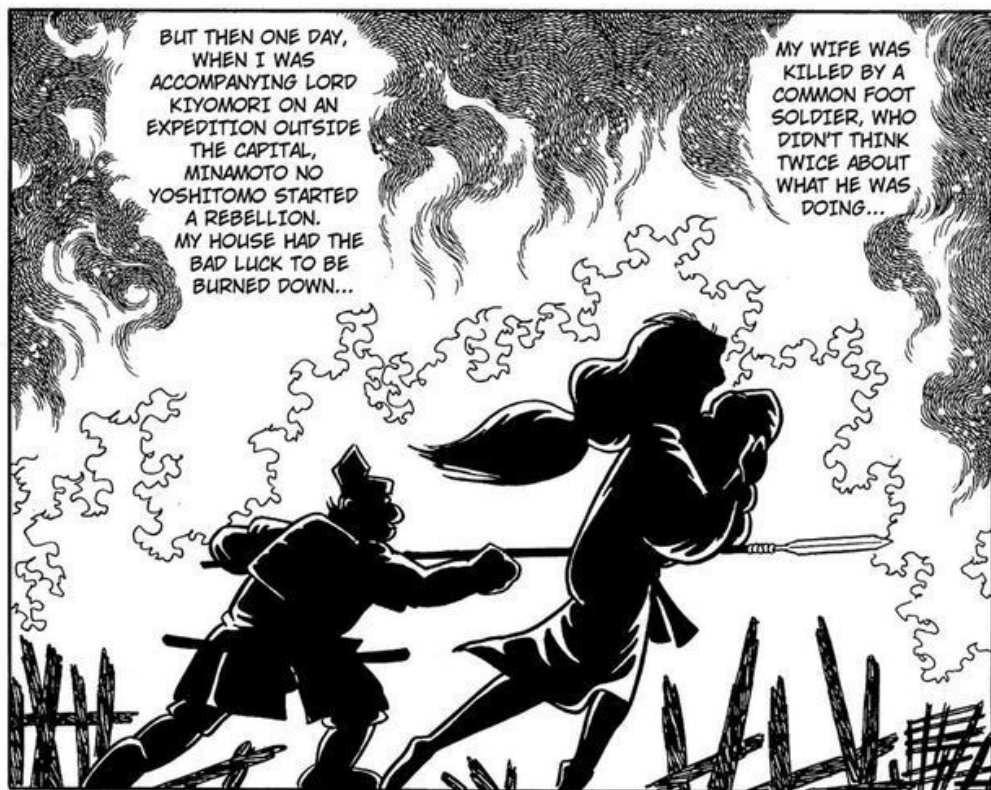
SHE WAS A YOUNG  
STREET-VENDOR, AND I  
LOVED HER MORE THAN  
ANYTHING ELSE...MY  
PARENTS WERE  
AGAINST IT, OF  
COURSE, BUT  
I WOULDN'T  
LISTEN  
TO THEM...



SO I WAS  
BANISHED  
FROM THE  
PALACE AND  
DISOWNED  
BY THE  
CLAN...



I MARRIED  
THE GIRL  
AND WAS  
LIVING  
WITH HER  
PEACEFULLY  
IN A QUIET  
CORNER  
OF THE  
CAPITAL...





DO YOU THINK  
YOUR BABY  
MIGHT HAVE  
SURVIVED TO  
GROW UP  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE?



I DON'T  
KNOW...HE  
HAD A RED  
**BIRTHMARK**  
ON THE END  
OF HIS  
NOSE...

I'D RECOGNIZE  
HIM IN A SECOND  
IF I RAN INTO  
HIM, BUT I'VE  
NEVER SEEN ANY  
YOUNG PERSON  
WHO LOOKS LIKE  
HIM...



TELL ME,  
MORITOSHI,  
WHY DO YOU  
THINK WE  
HAVE SO MANY  
WARS?

IT SEEMS  
LIKE SO MANY  
INNOCENT  
PEOPLE GET  
CAUGHT UP IN  
THEM, AND DIE...



IF YOU THINK  
ABOUT IT,  
NOT EVEN THE  
SAMURAI  
PROFIT FROM  
ALL THESE  
WARS...

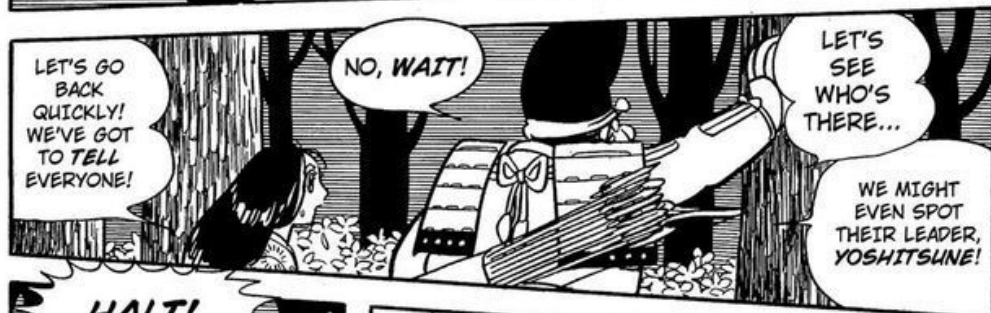


DON'T YOU  
THINK  
MANKIND'S  
SORT OF  
**STUPID?**



WELL, THAT'S  
SOMETHING I DON'T  
KNOW ABOUT, BUT I  
GUESS YOU COULD  
SAY THAT SAMURAI  
LIVE TO FIGHT...

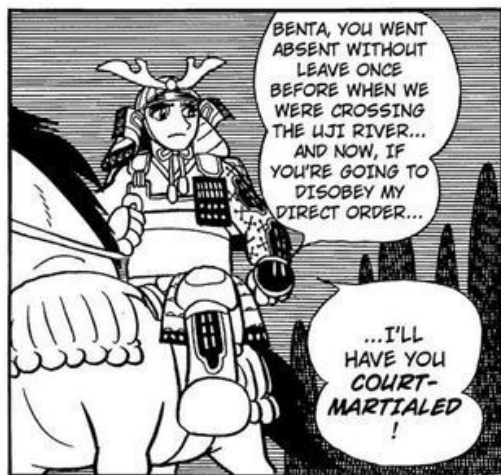
SHHH! I  
HEAR  
SOME-  
THING...

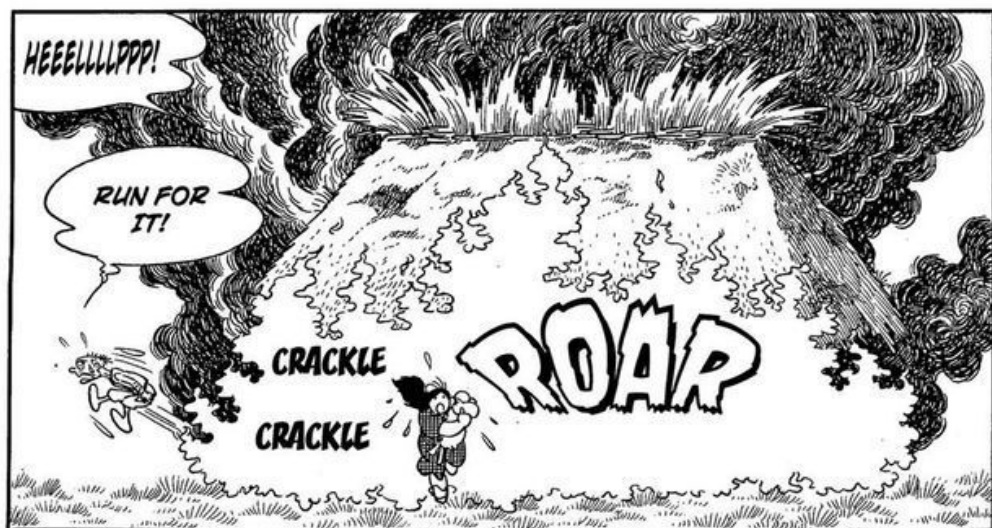
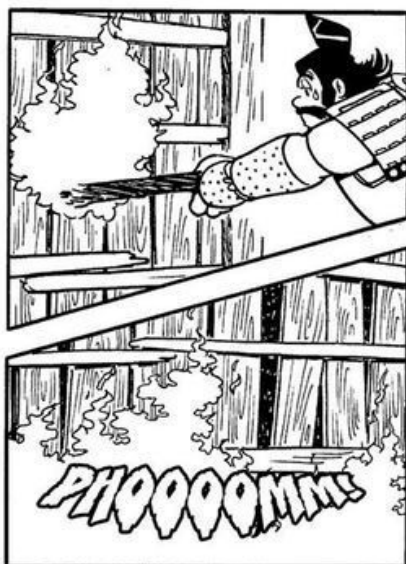














REASONS, SCHMEEZONS!  
I'M GONNA GO GIVE  
YOSHITSUNE-THE GUY WE  
KNEW AS USHIWAKA-A  
PIECE OF MY MIND! HE CAN  
GO TO WAR ALL HE LIKES,  
BUT WHEN HE'S KILLIN' AN'  
BURNIN' INNOCENT FOLKS,  
HE'S GOIN' TOO FAR!



NOW  
HOLD  
ON,  
GOURD-  
HEAD!



FORGET  
ABOUT  
MEETING  
HIM...HE  
MIGHT KILL  
YOU!

NO! I  
KNOW  
USHIMARU...



AN' I KNOW  
HE'LL LISTEN  
TO ME!

WHA?!



HEY! WHO'S  
THERE?! SHOW  
YOURSELF!!

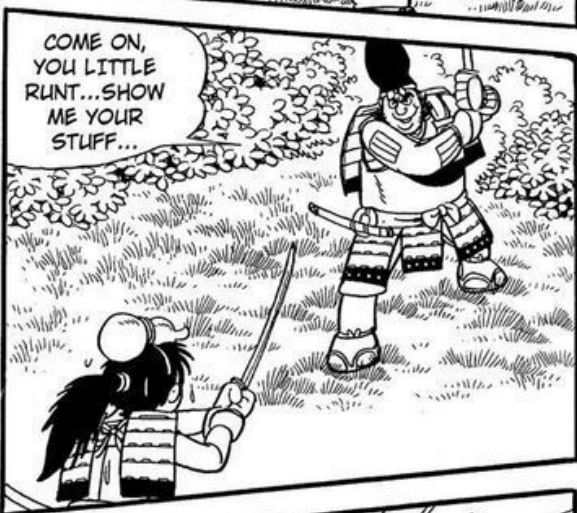
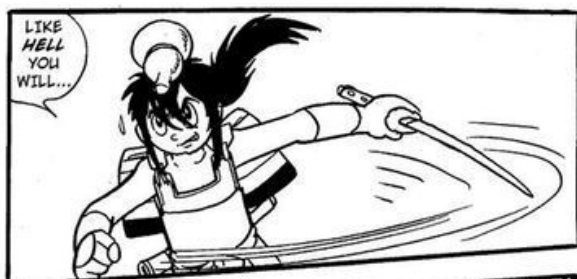
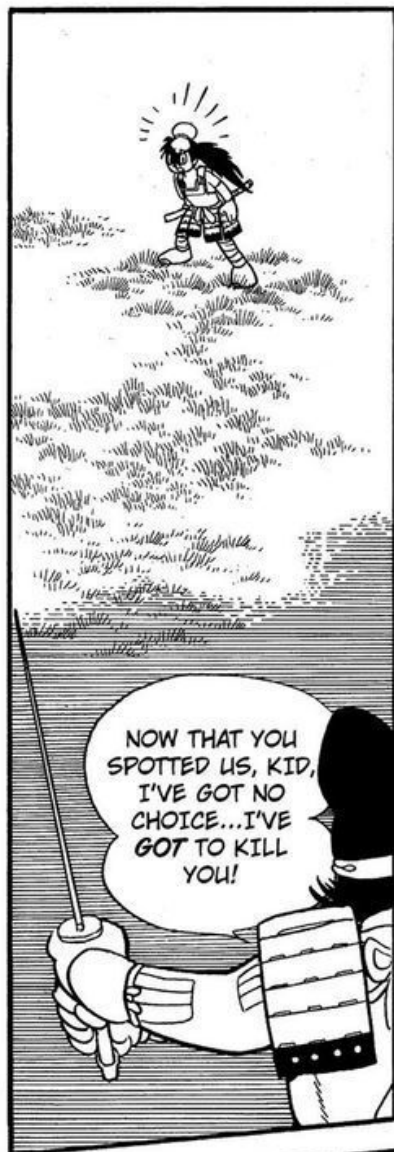
UH, OH...  
HE  
SPOTTED  
US...



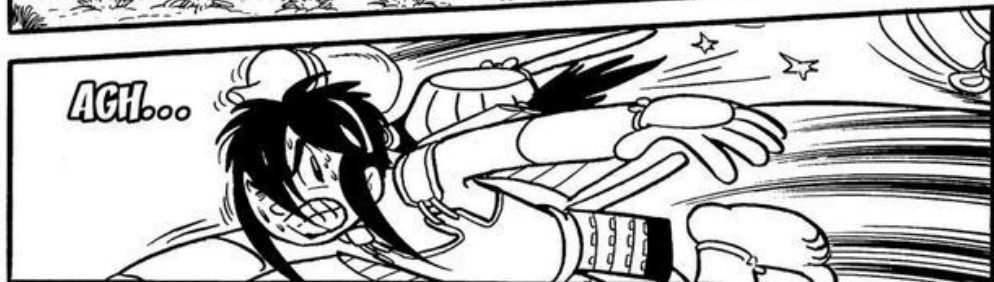
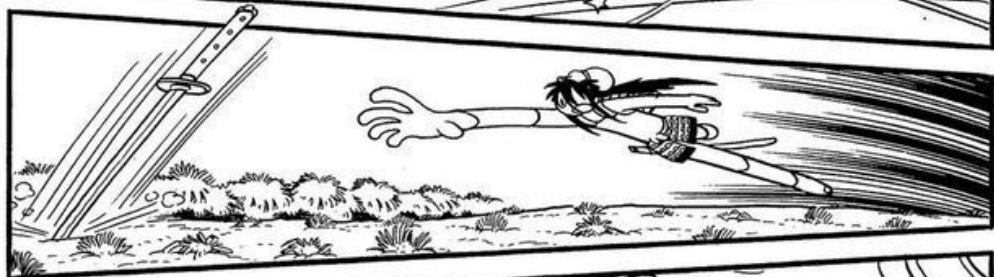
LOOKS  
LIKE WE'VE  
GOT A  
PROBLEM  
HERE, LADY  
FLUKKO...

YOU'D BETTER  
GO BACK...I'LL  
HANDLE THIS  
SOMEHOW...

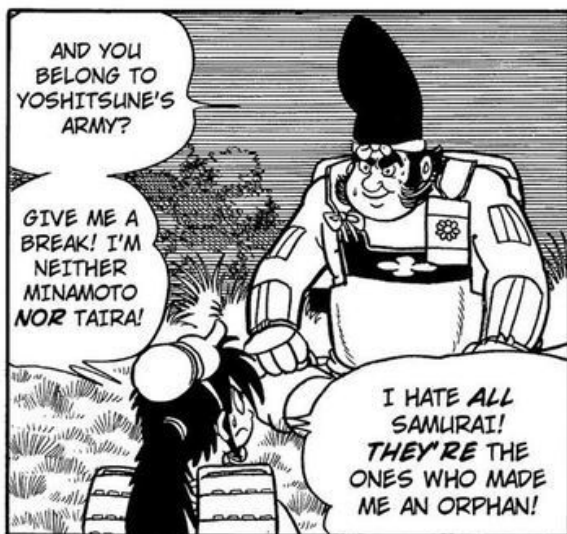


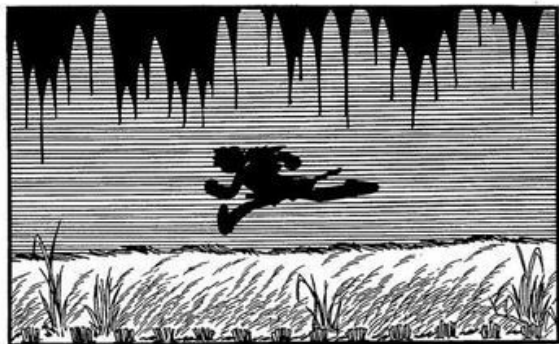
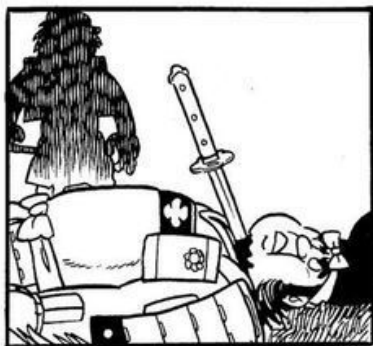
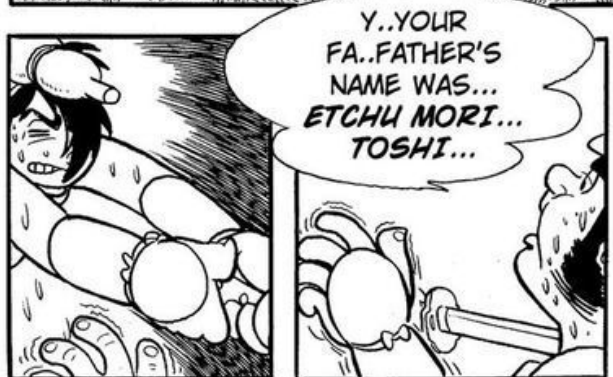






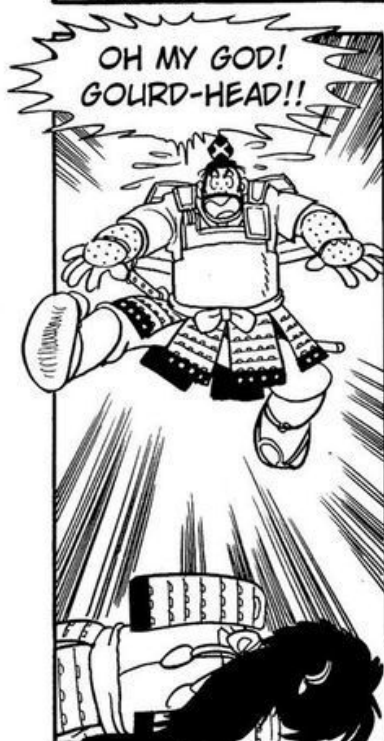










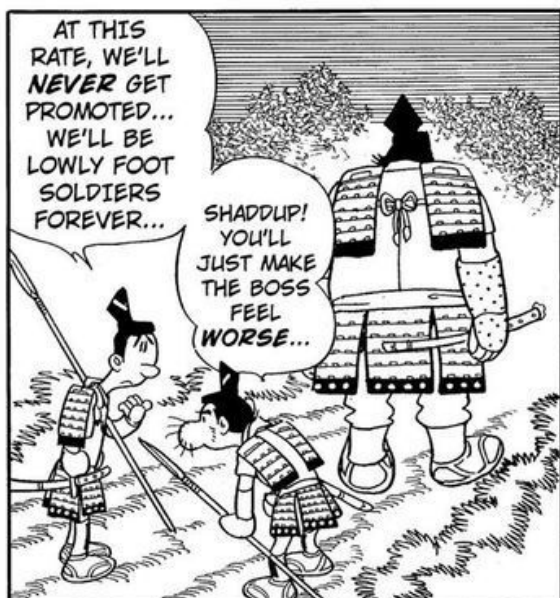




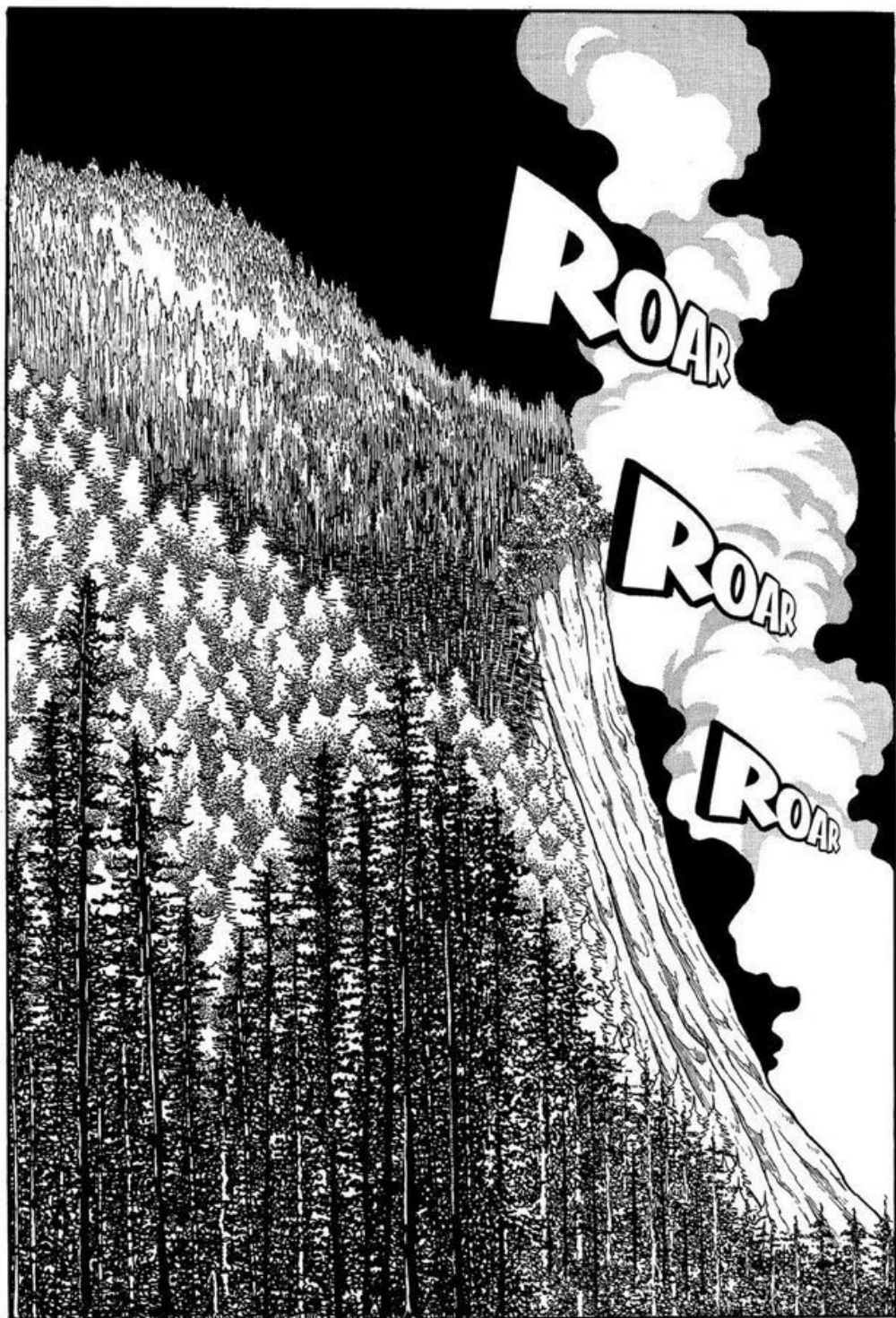




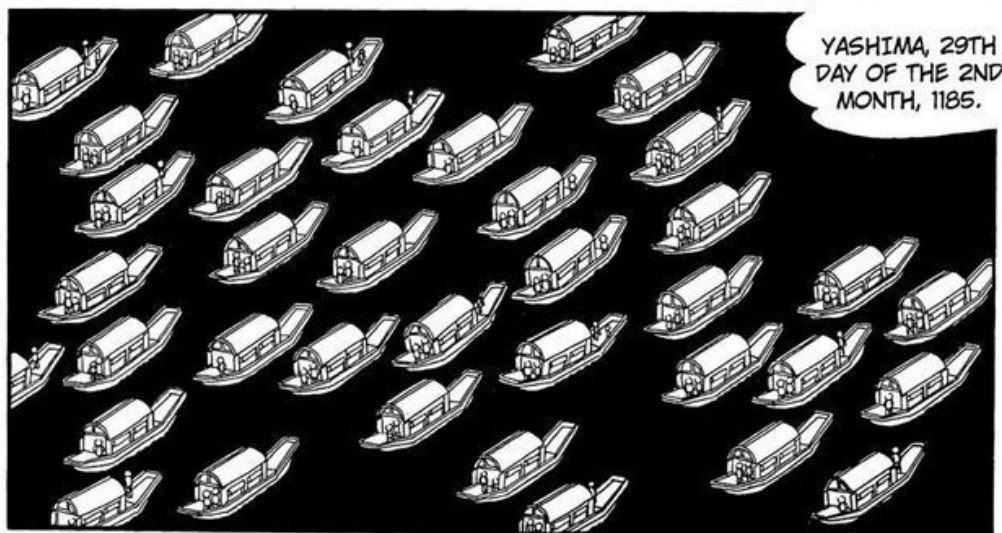
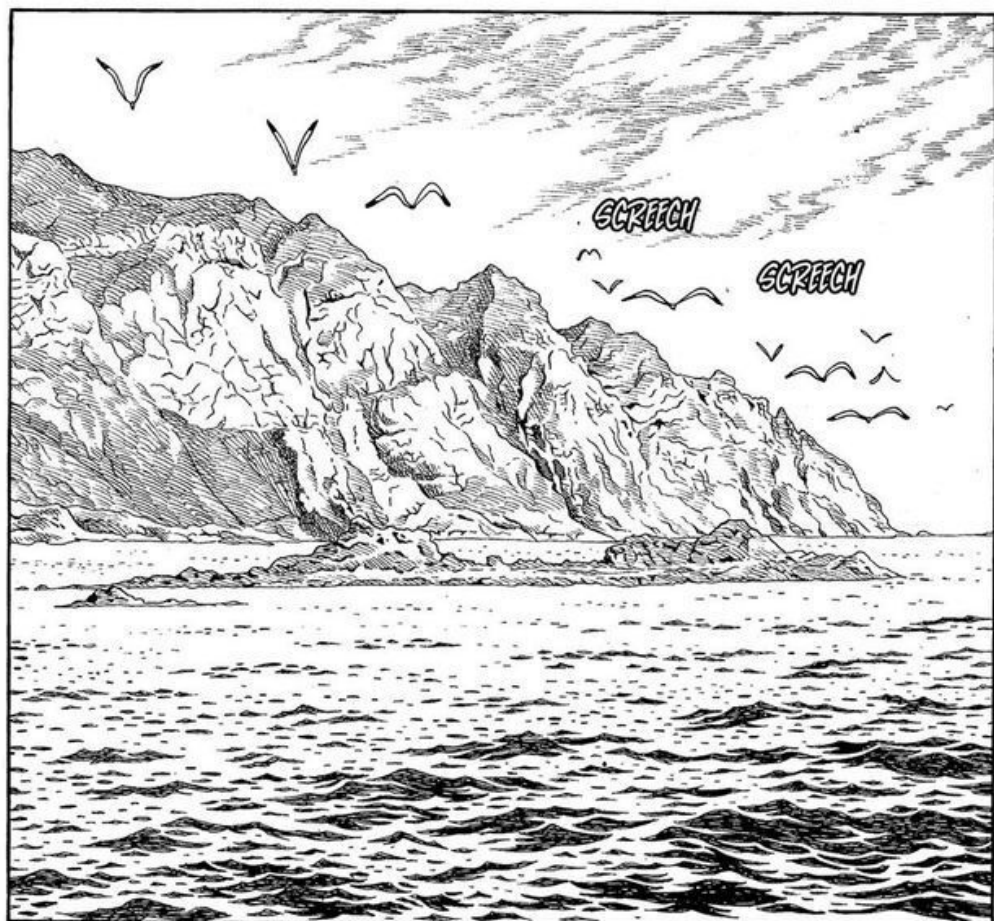






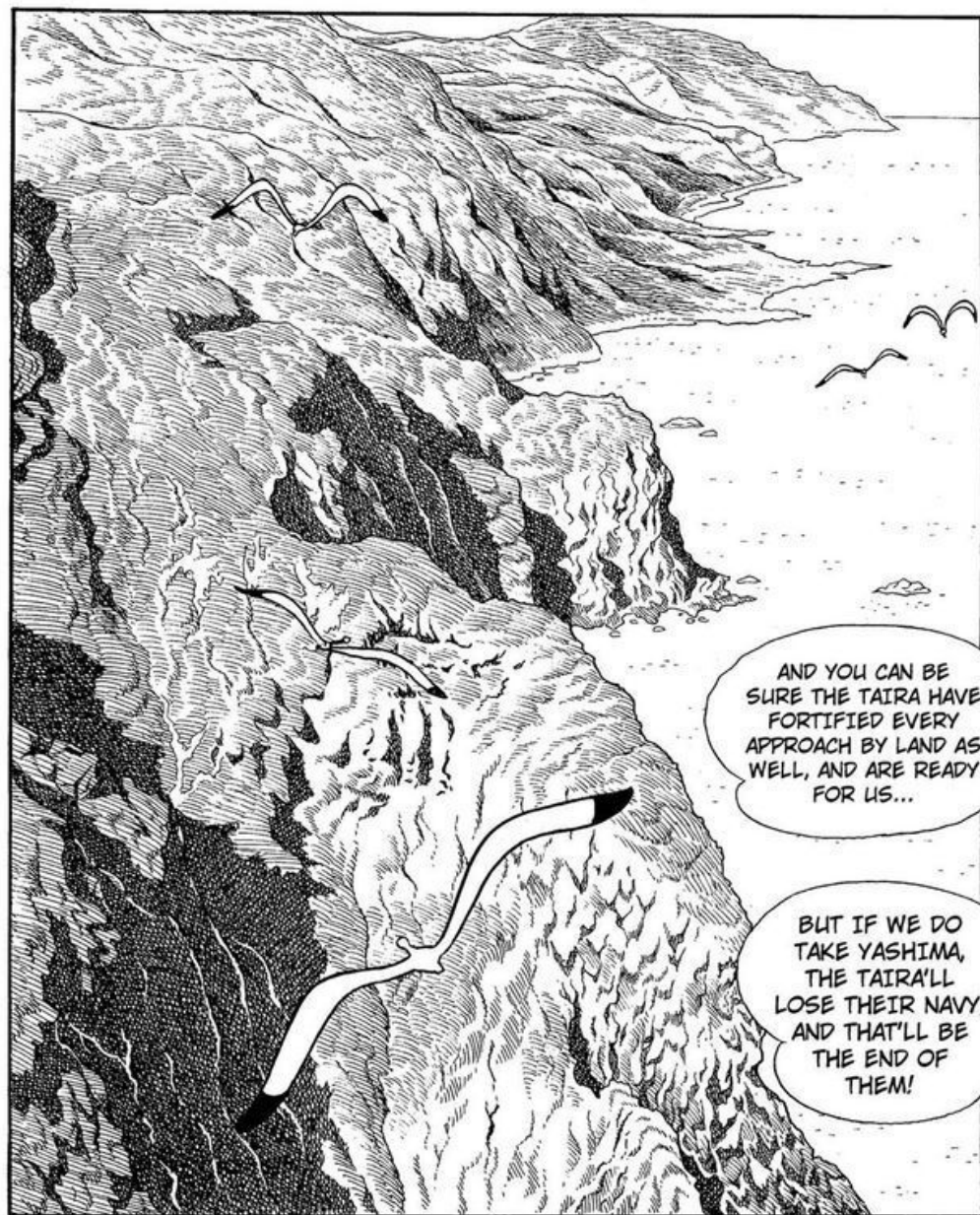






LOOK! IT'S YASHIMA!  
THAT'S THE PENINSULA  
WHERE MUNEMORI'S  
NAVY IS!

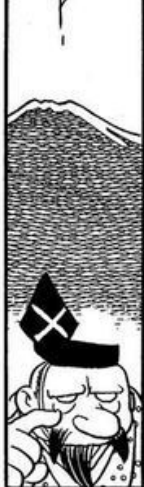
IT'S A NATURAL FORTRESS,  
AND UNLESS YOU'RE A  
SEAGULL, YOU CAN'T EVEN  
APPROACH IT FROM  
THE SEA...



AND YOU CAN BE  
SURE THE TAIRA HAVE  
FORTIFIED EVERY  
APPROACH BY LAND AS  
WELL, AND ARE READY  
FOR US...

BUT IF WE DO  
TAKE YASHIMA,  
THE TAIRA'LL  
LOSE THEIR NAVY,  
AND THAT'LL BE  
THE END OF  
THEM!

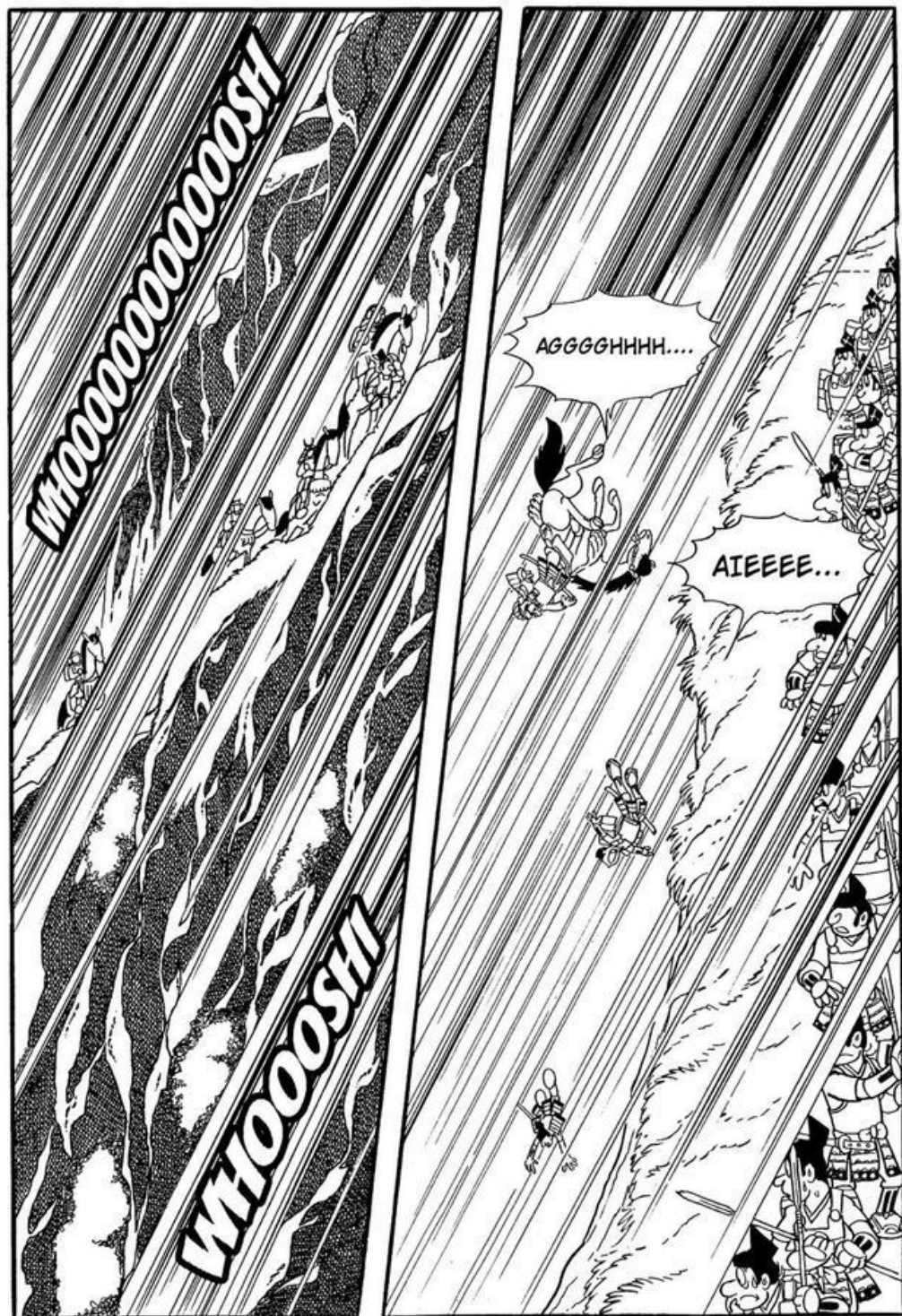




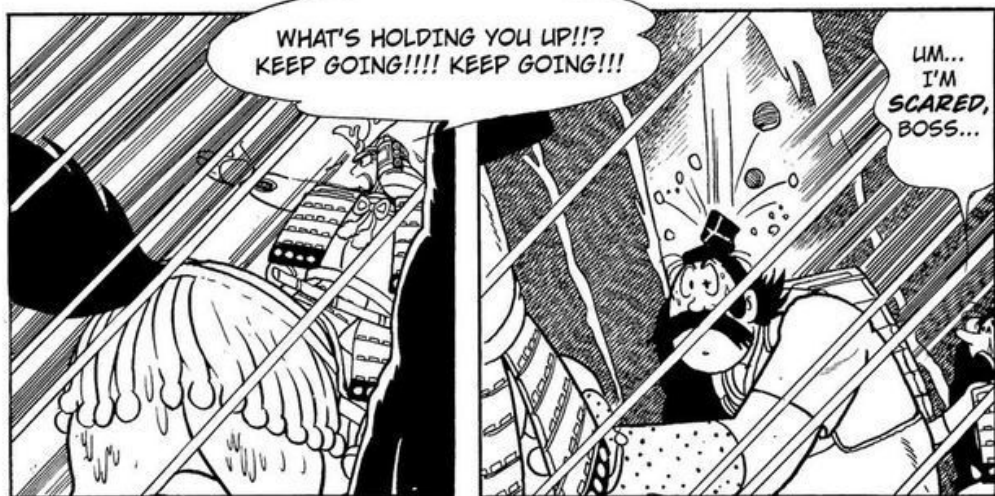












SIR...IF WE CONTINUE LIKE THIS, WE'LL LOSE HALF OUR MEN IN THE STORM, BEFORE THE BATTLE EVEN BEGINS...



SO WHAT? THEY'RE ONLY FOOT SOLDIERS! THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS JUST TO REACH *ENEMY LINES!*



SHOW US SOME BACKBONE, YOU COWARDS!



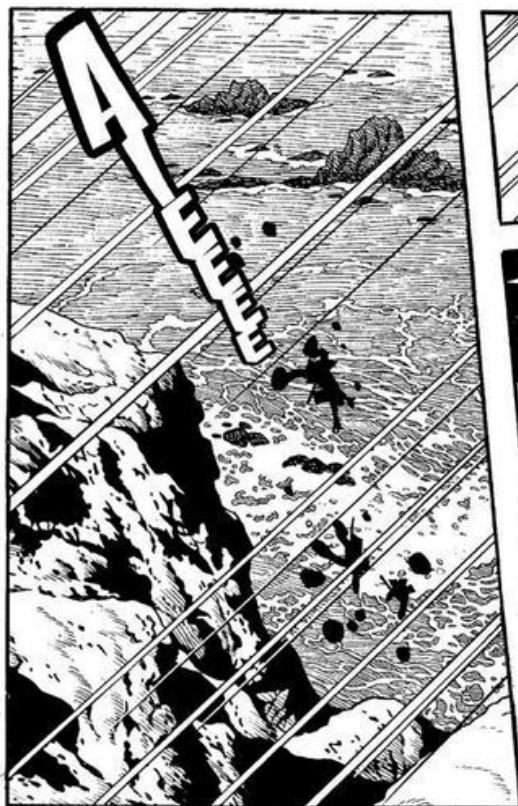
I WISH I'D HAD TIME FOR THAT SECOND BOWL OF STEW...

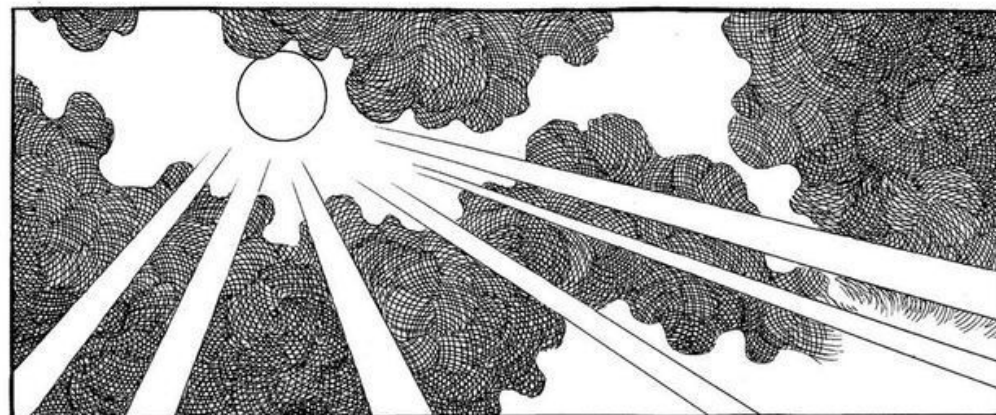


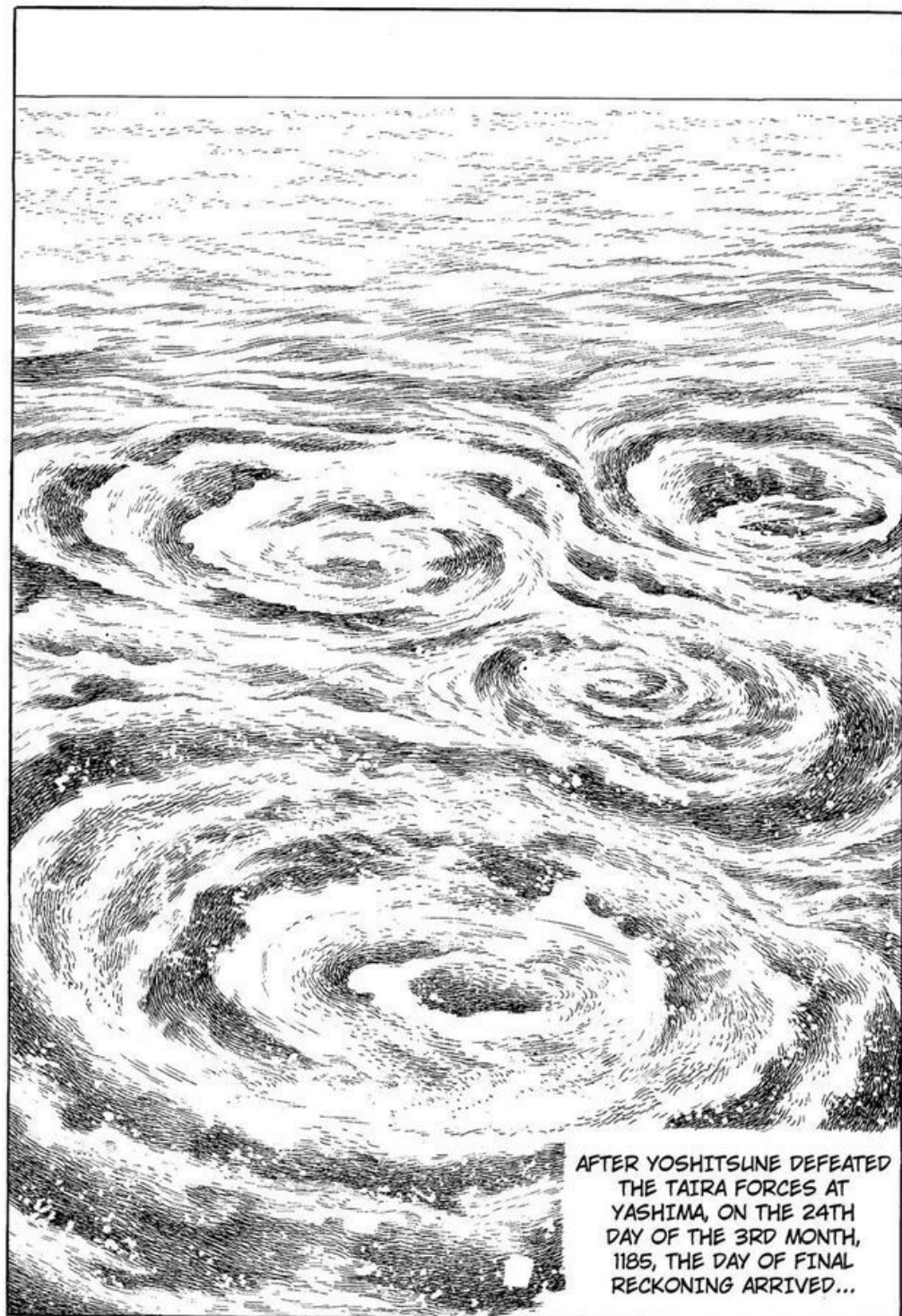
**BASH**



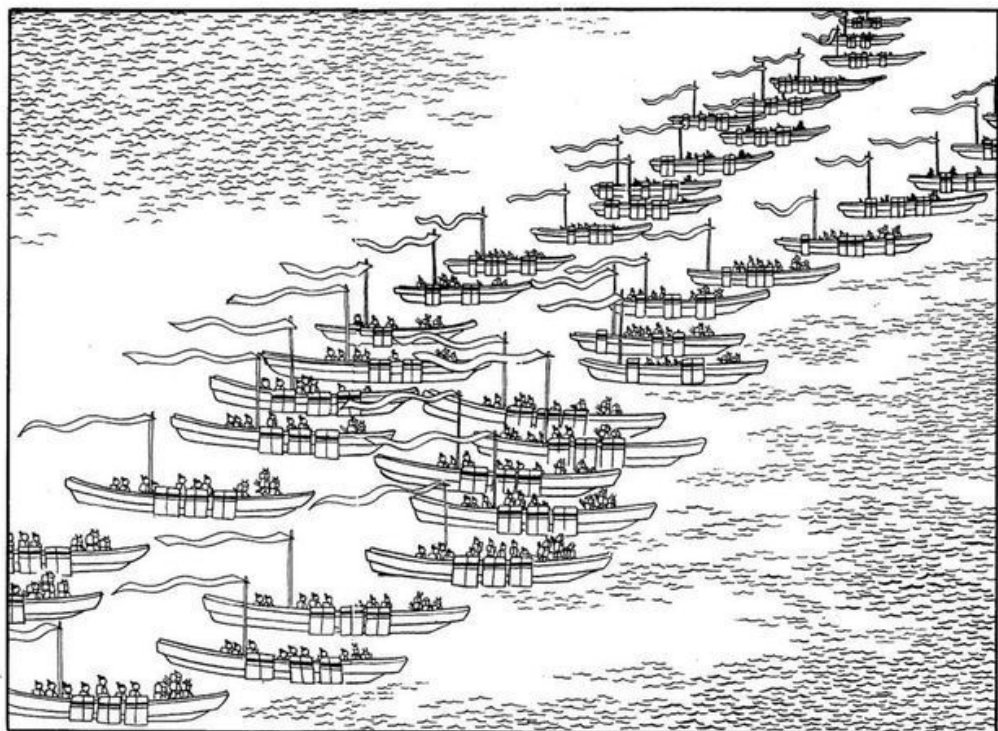




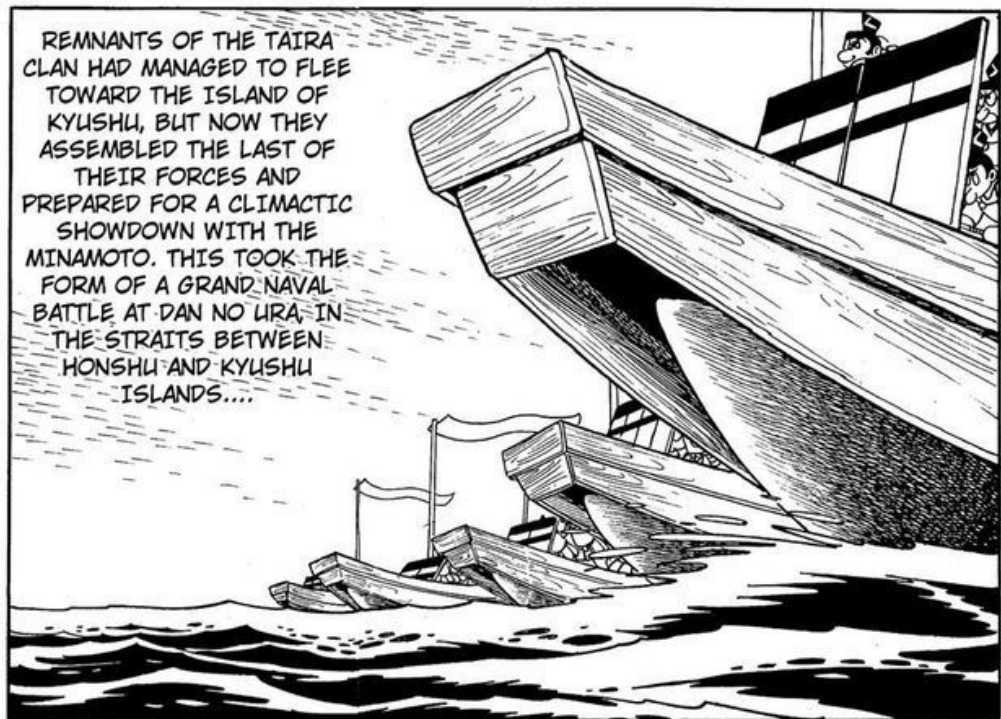




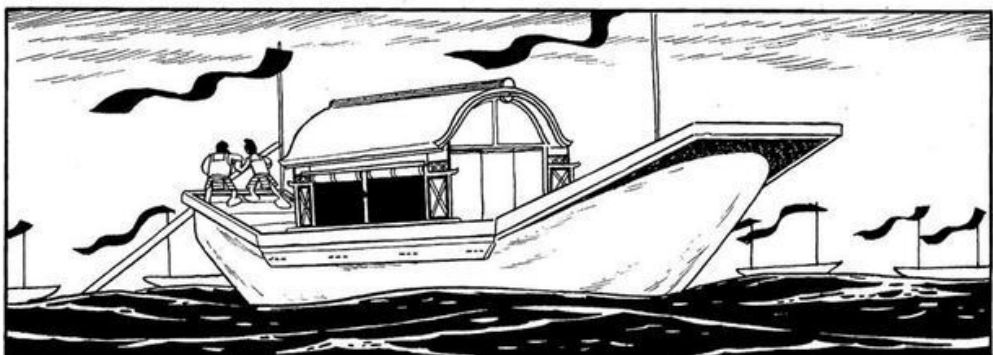
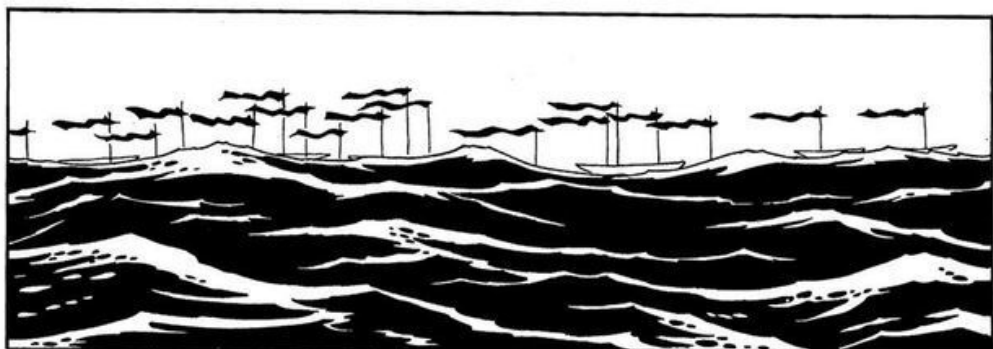
AFTER YOSHITSUNE DEFEATED  
THE TAIRA FORCES AT  
YASHIMA, ON THE 24TH  
DAY OF THE 3RD MONTH,  
1185, THE DAY OF FINAL  
RECKONING ARRIVED...



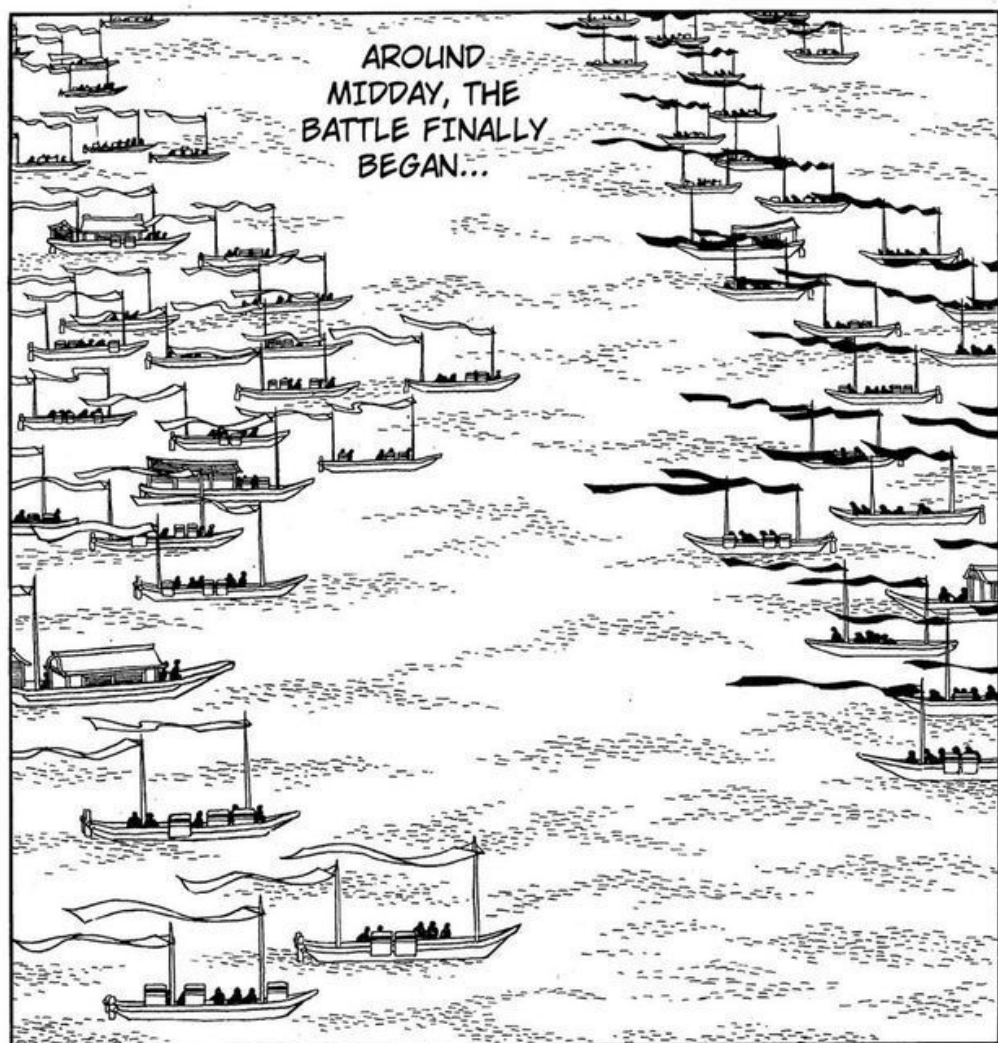
REMNANTS OF THE TAIRA CLAN HAD MANAGED TO FLEE TOWARD THE ISLAND OF KYUSHU, BUT NOW THEY ASSEMBLED THE LAST OF THEIR FORCES AND PREPARED FOR A CLIMACTIC SHOWDOWN WITH THE MINAMOTO. THIS TOOK THE FORM OF A GRAND NAVAL BATTLE AT DAN NO URA, IN THE STRAITS BETWEEN HONSHU AND KYUSHU ISLANDS....

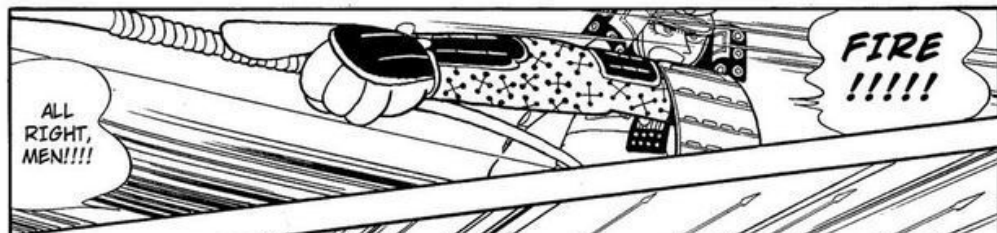
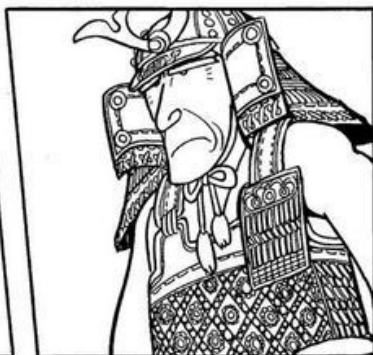


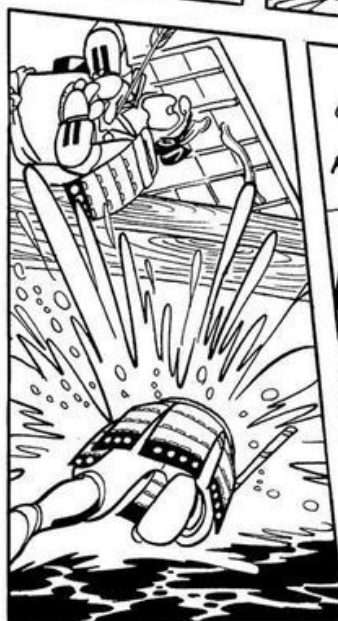
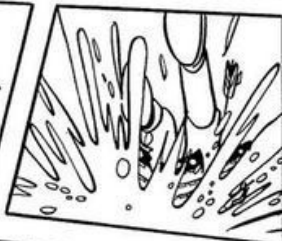
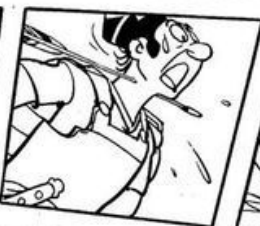
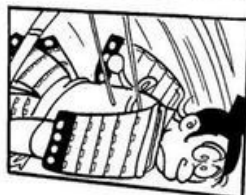
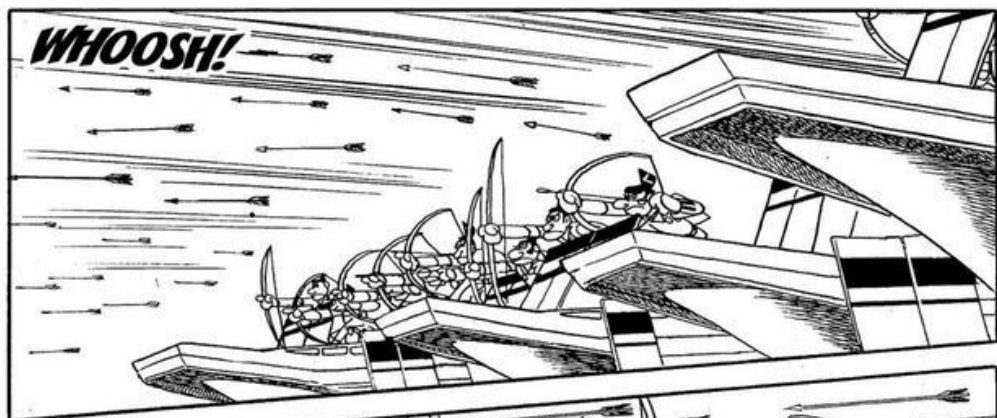












GET  
CLOSER!  
KEEP  
FIRING!



OARSMEN!  
ROW  
FASTER  
!!!!

THE TIDE'S  
TURNING...OUR  
SHIPS ARE  
SLOWING  
DOWN...



NOT  
MATTER  
HOW HARD  
WE ROW,  
IT'S LIKE  
WE'RE  
STANDING  
STILL...

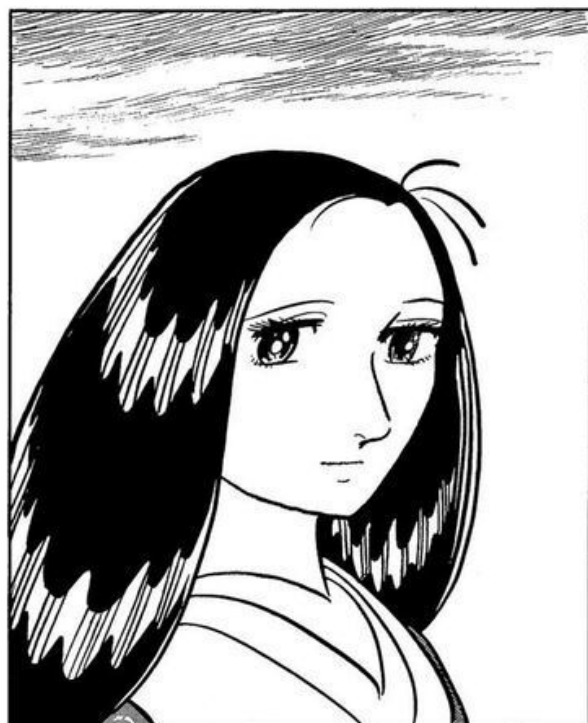
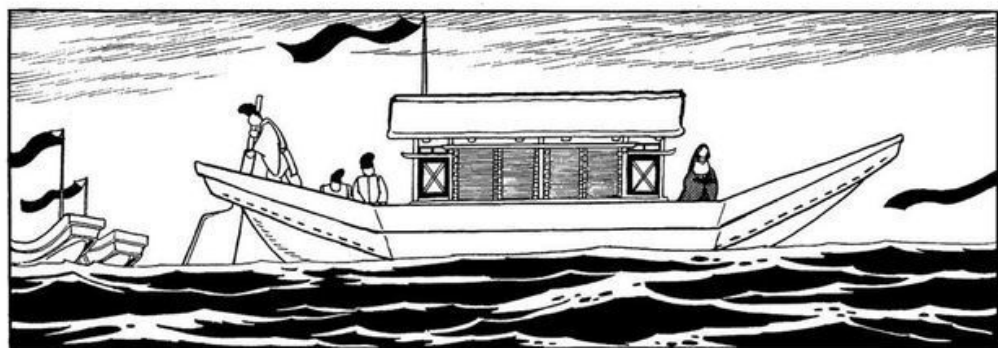


I'M NOT STEPPING DOWN 'TIL WE COMPLETELY ROUT THE TAIRA...EVEN IF IT KILLS ME...!



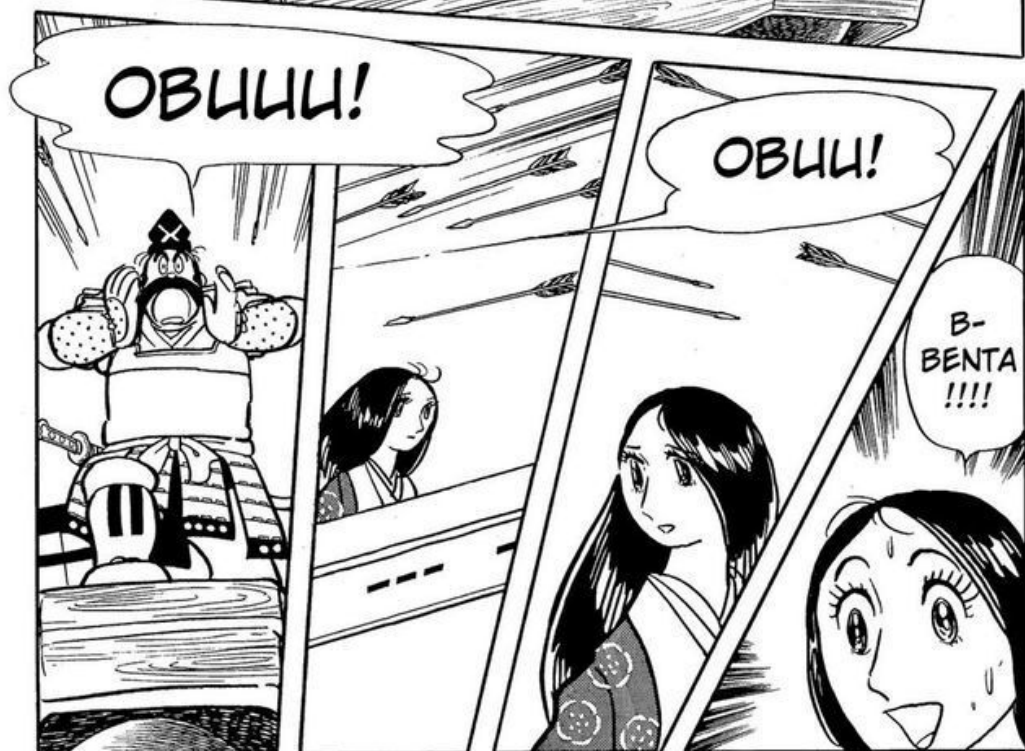
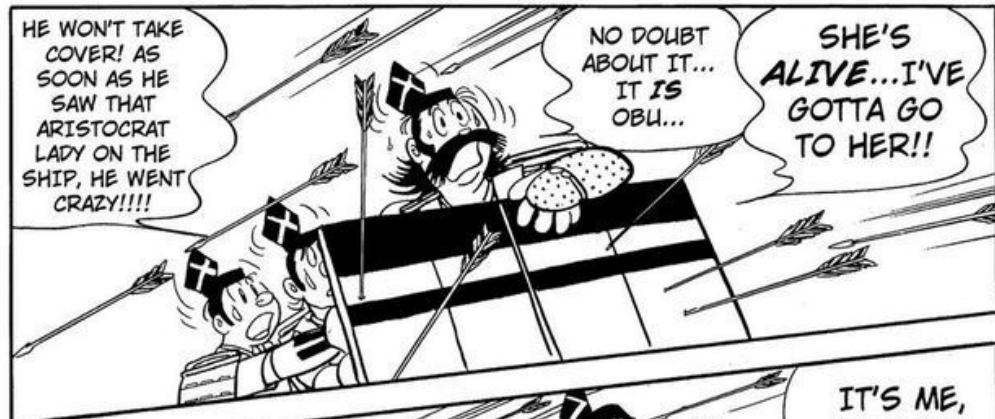


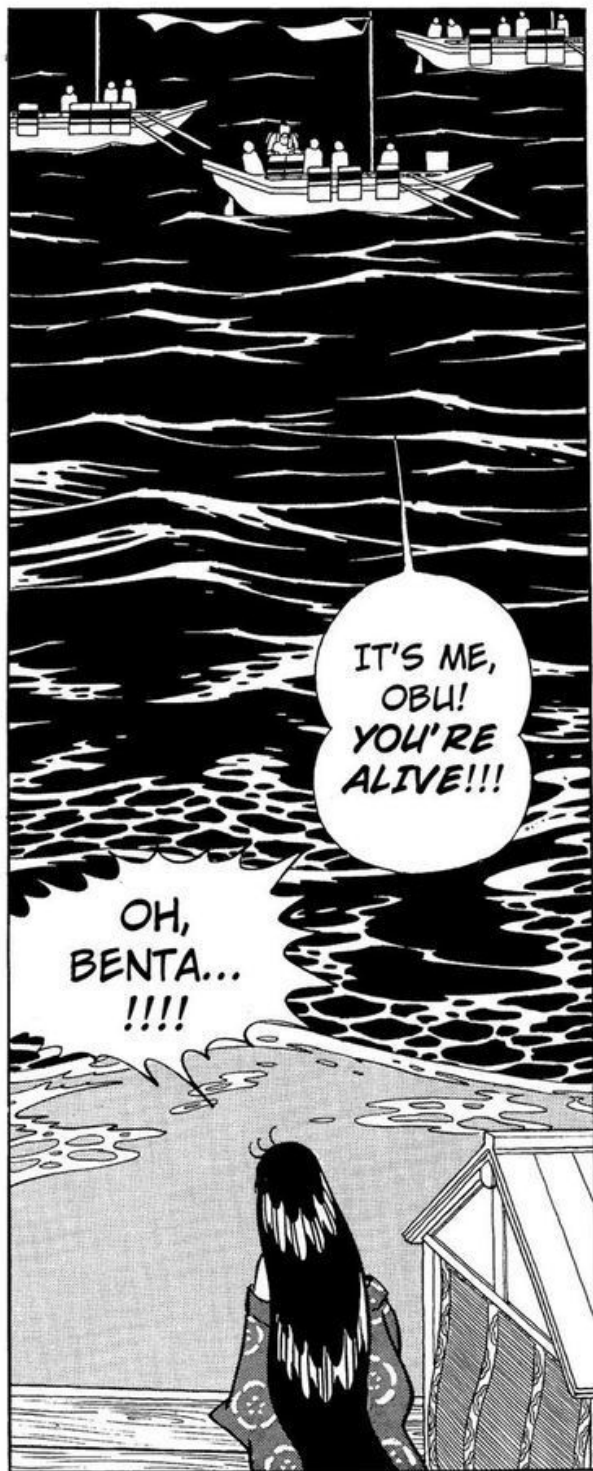


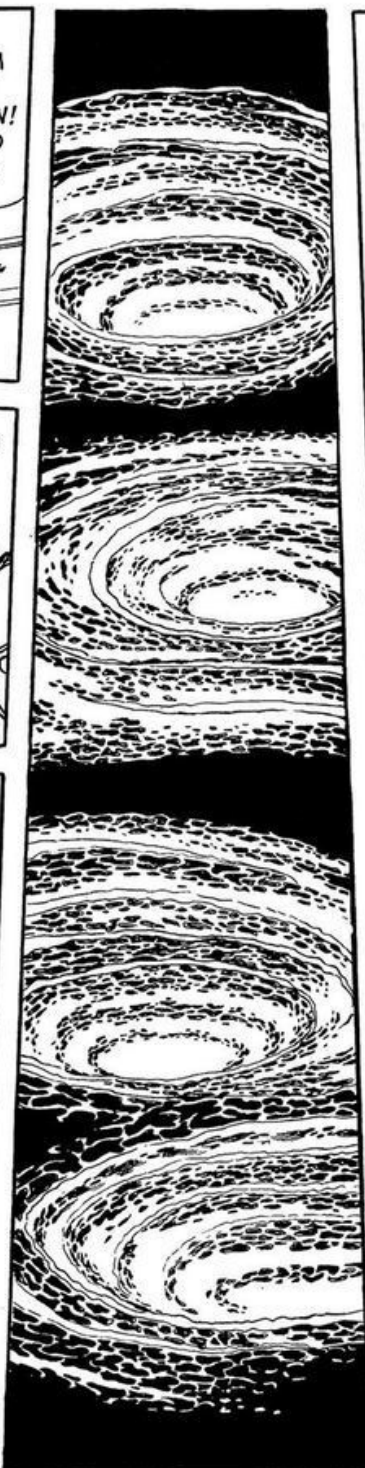


**OBU!!!!**







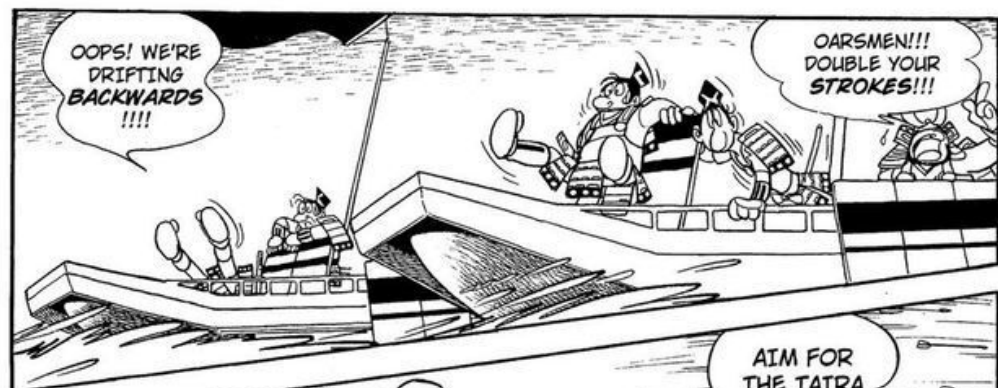




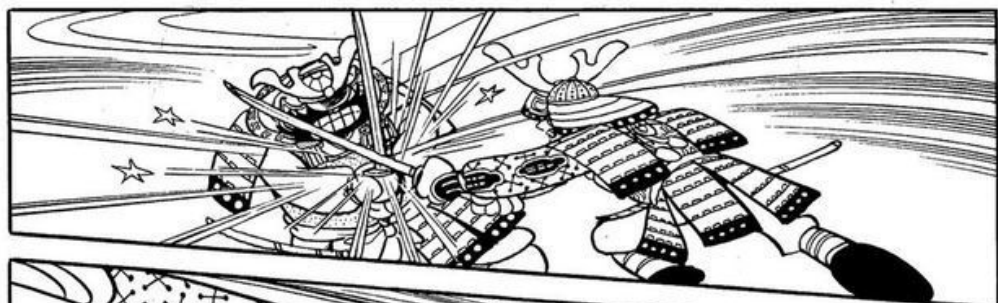
UH OH...LOOK!  
WE'RE IN  
TROUBLE!  
THE TIDE'S  
TURNING BACK  
ON US...!

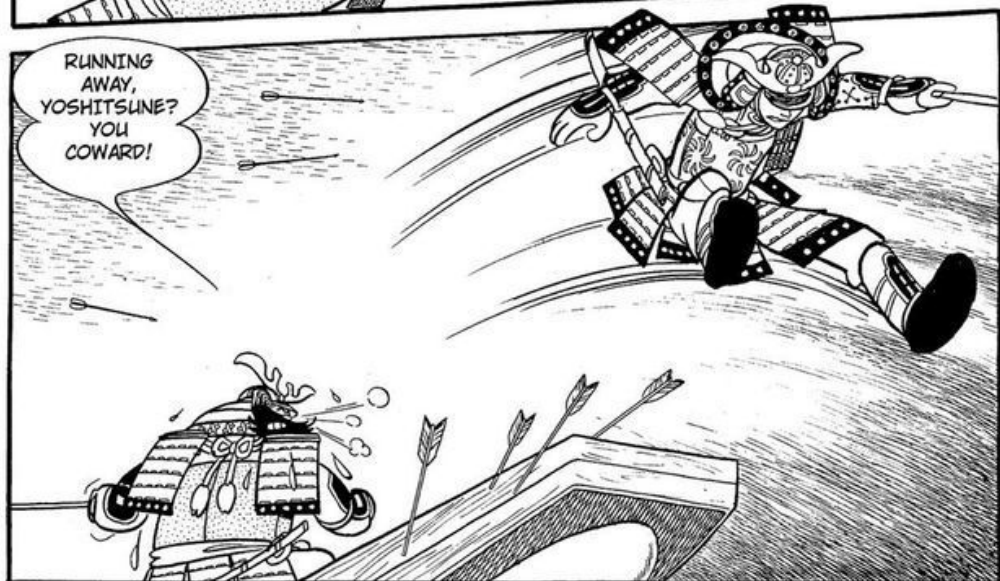
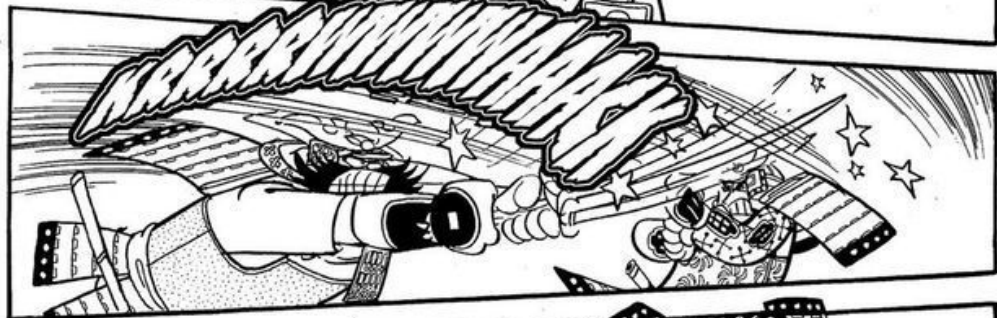
LORD BUDDHA,  
HELP US! THE  
MORNING TIDE'S  
GIVING WAY TO  
THE AFTERNOON  
TIDE...!







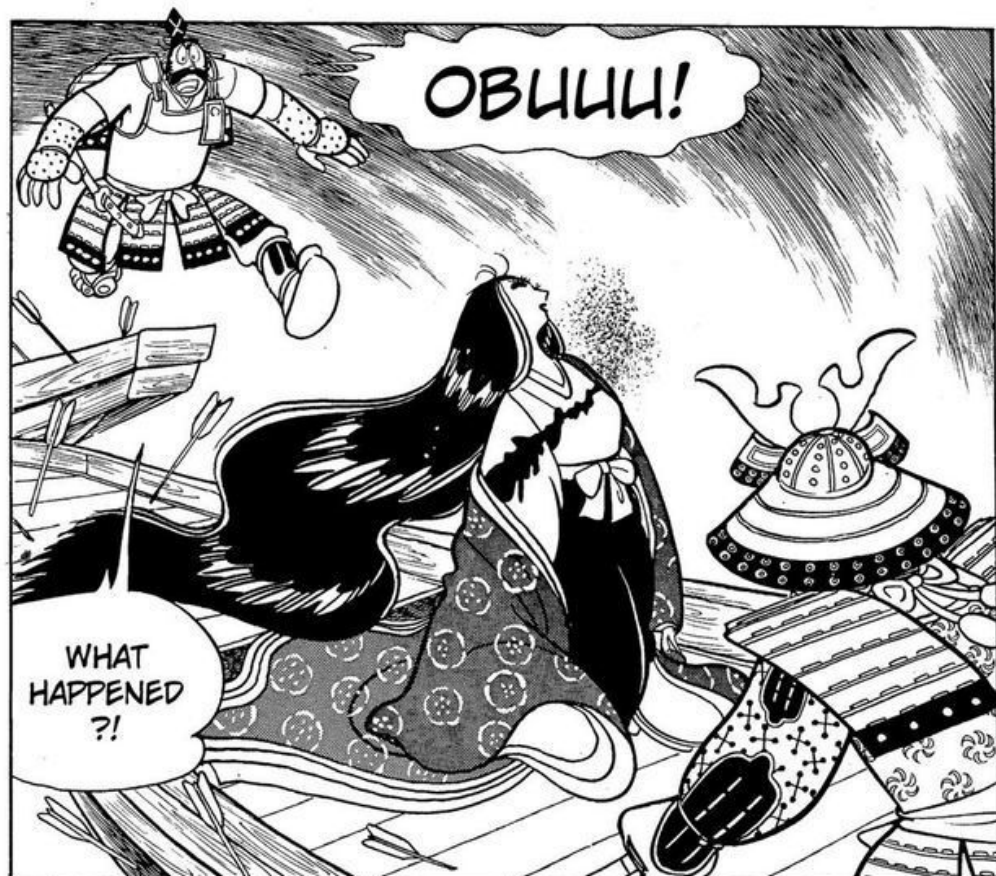


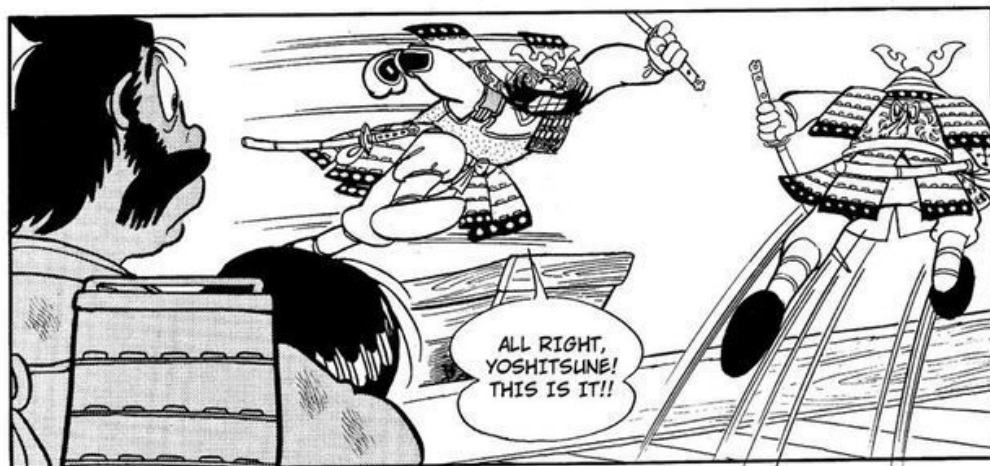


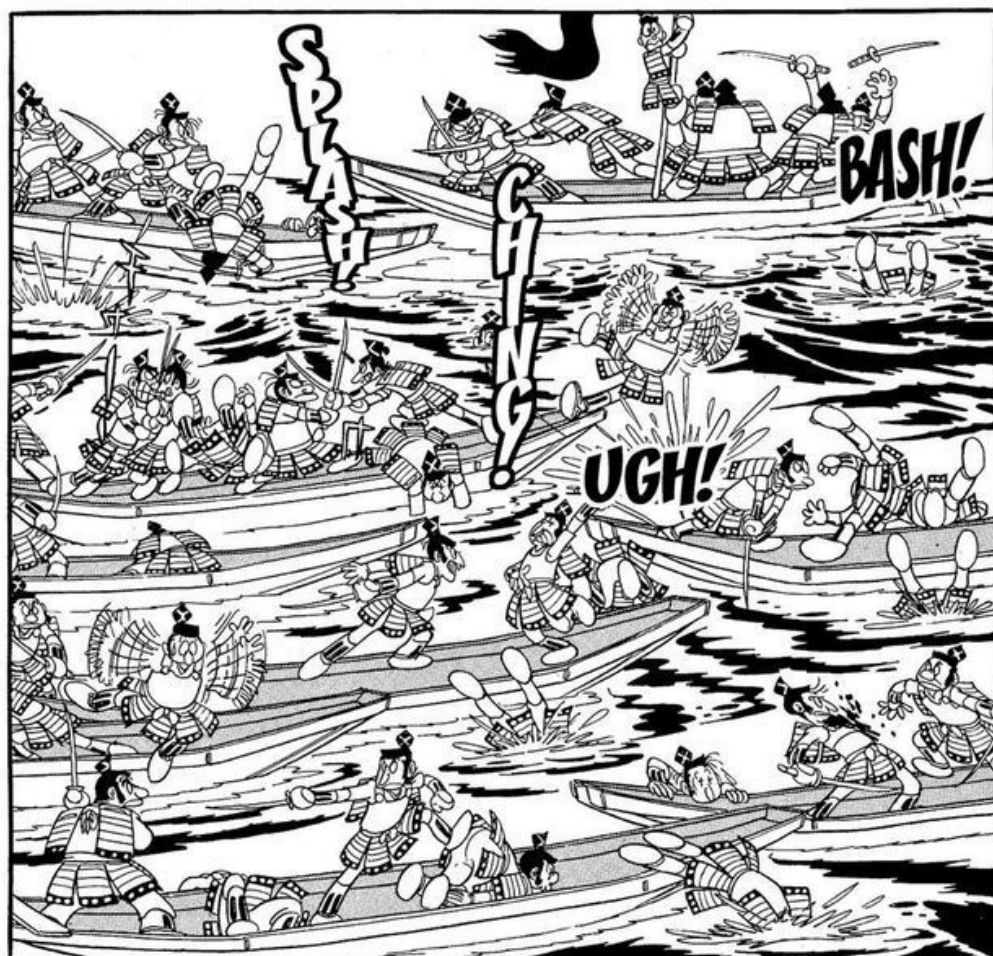


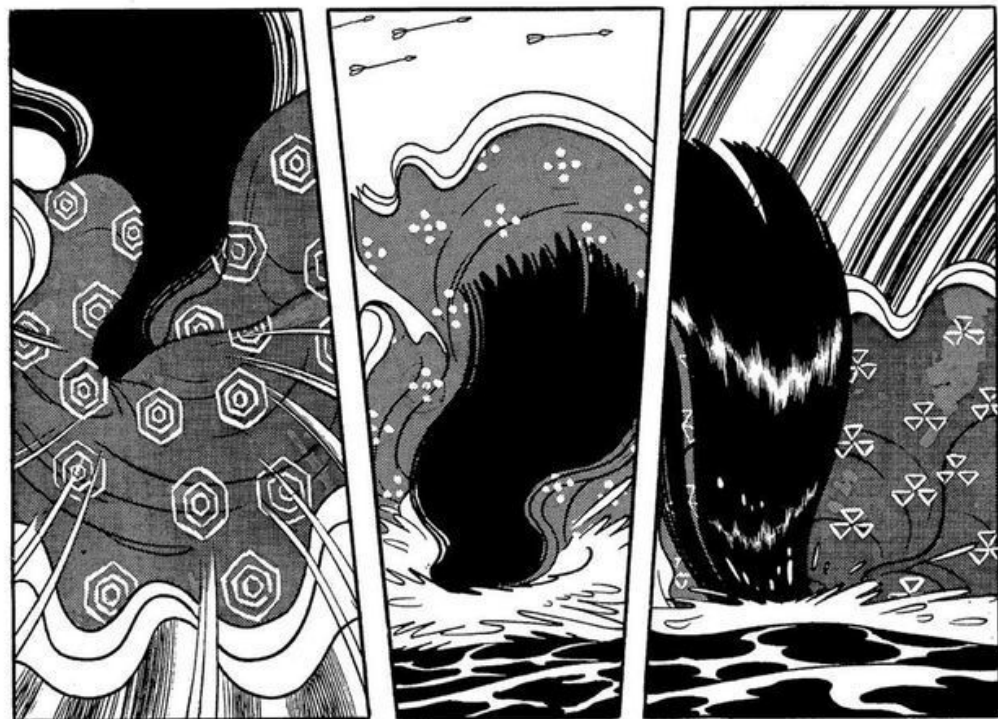




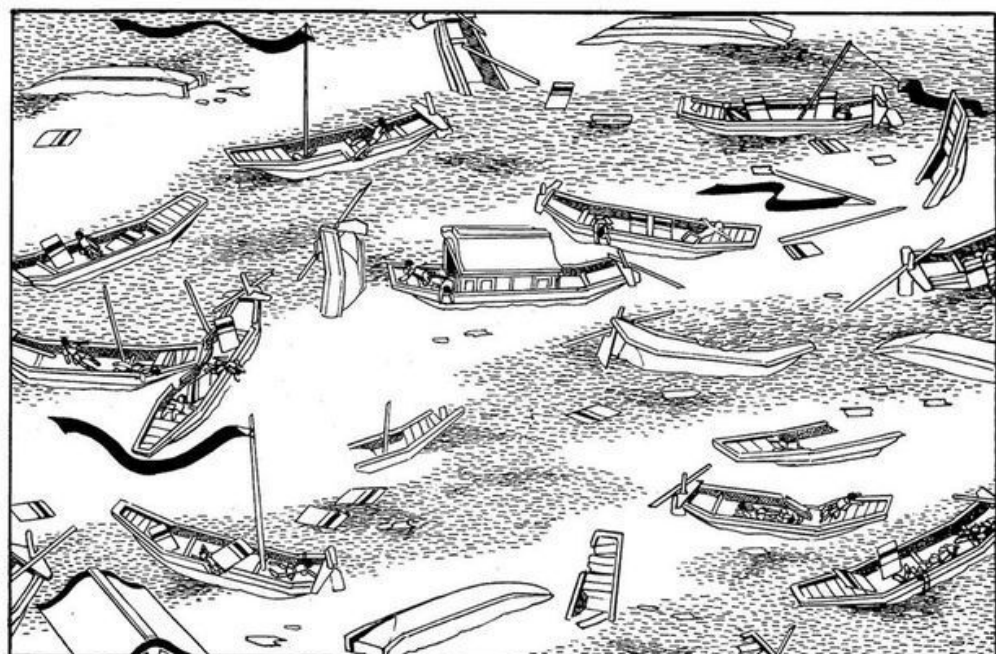
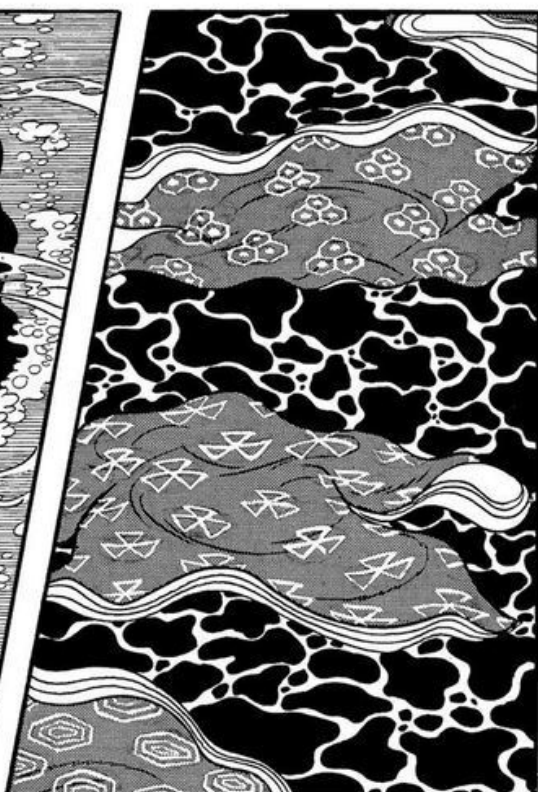
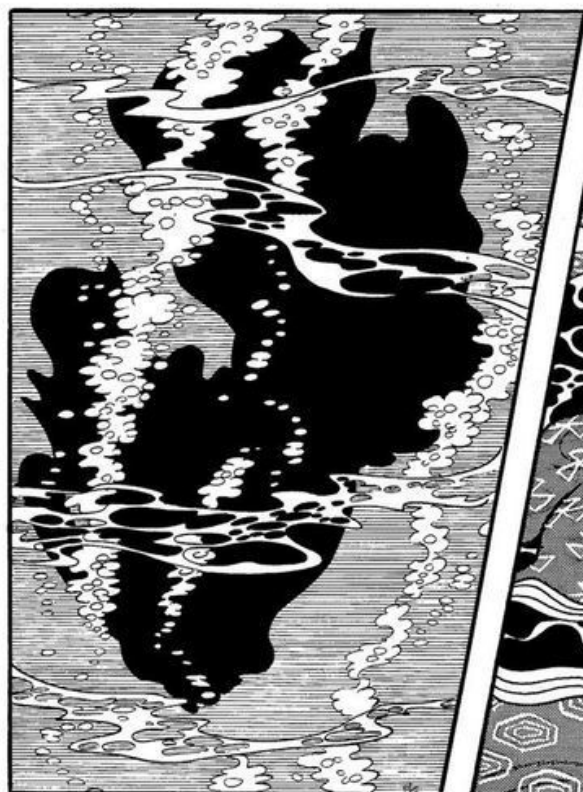




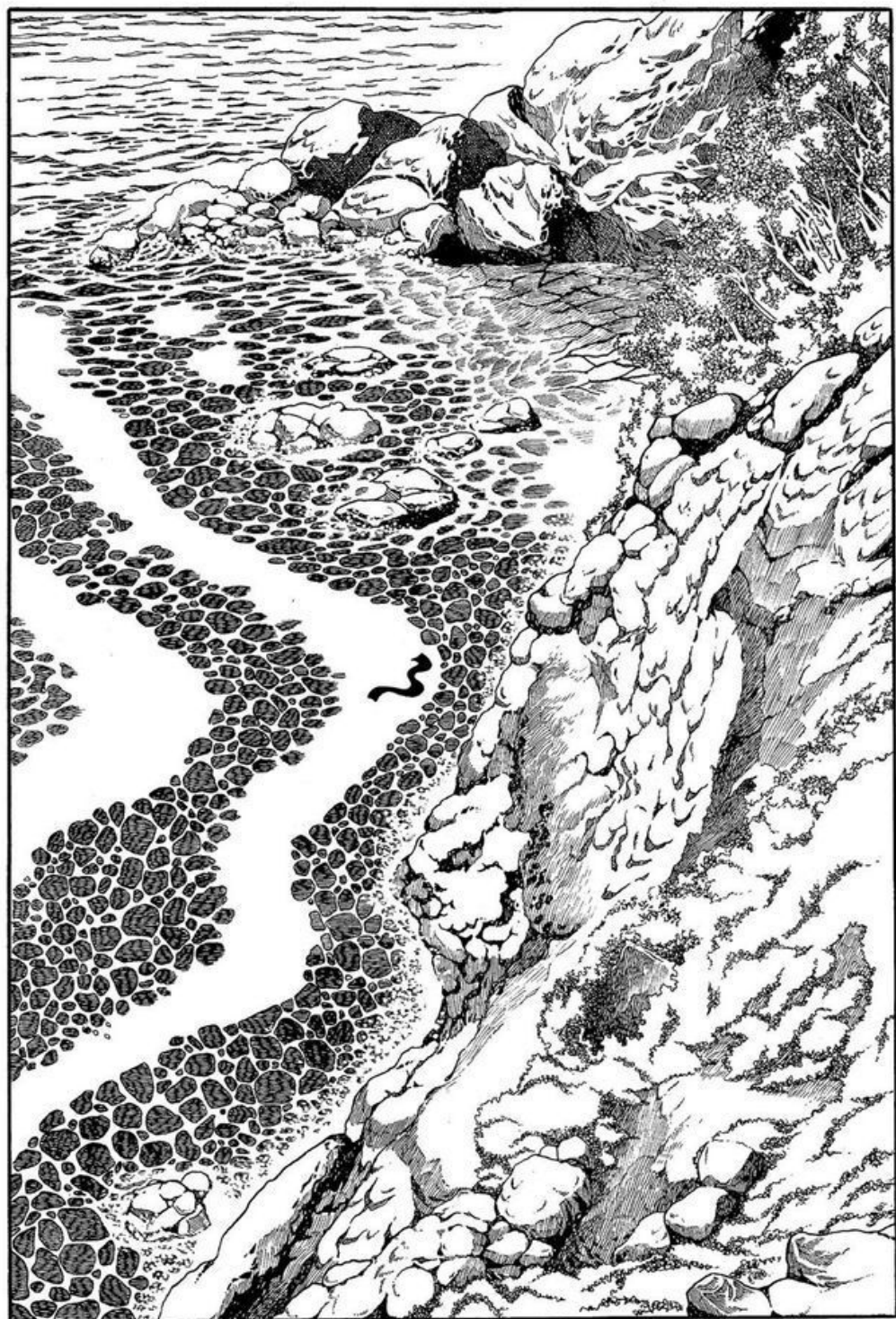


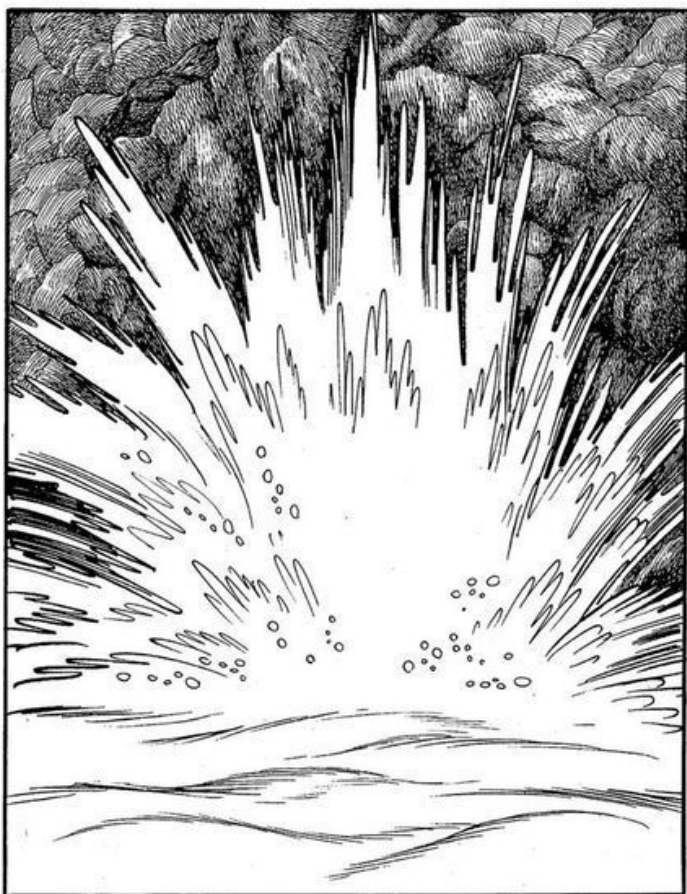
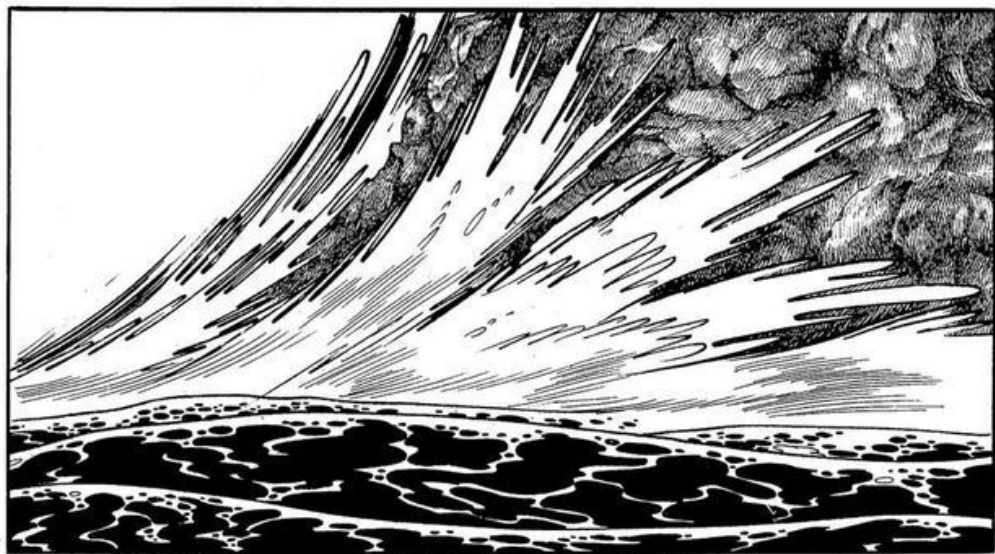












THE TAIRA  
WERE  
DESTROYED...  
AND THE END  
CAME IN A  
MORE PITIFUL  
AND ABRUPT  
WAY THAN  
ANYONE HAD  
IMAGINED.

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO INFORM LORD MINAMOTO NO YORITOMO THAT THE TAIRA EMPEROR HAS BEEN SENT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

MOREOVER, THE FOLLOWING HAVE MET THE SAME FATE:

ALL OF THE UPPER-RANKING NUNS, COUNSELOR TAIRA NO NORIMORI, DEPUTY COUNSELOR TAIRA NO TOMOMORI, TAIRA NO YOSHIMORI, GENERAL OF THE THIRD-RANK TAIRA NO SUKEMORI, LT. GENERAL TAIRA NO ARIMORI, AND COMMANDER TAIRA NO YUKIMORI.

THE LADY KENREIMON-IN AND THE YOUNG IMPERIAL PRINCE WERE SAVED.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE:

COUNSELOR TAIRA NO MUNEMORI, GRAND COUNSEL TAIRA NO TOKIMORI, MINISTER OF THE RIGHT TAIRA NO KIYOMUNE, FORMER DEPUTY OF THE TREASURY TAIRA NO NOBUFUKA (ALTHOUGH WOUNDED), LT. GENERAL TAIRA NO TOKISANE, AS WELL AS VARIOUS SOLDIERS AND DEPENDENTS OF THE COURT.



EGADS!  
WE DID  
IT!



WE  
DID  
IT!

WE  
REALLY  
DID IT!



